

DATE: 6 January 2005

FROM: Kristiaan Kerstens and Spiro Stefanou

TO: *Steven Buccola*
Lilyan Fulginiti
Quirino Paris
Rolf Färe and Shawna Grosskopf

Greetings and Happy New Year!

I am writing to update you on the efforts to make this **IX EWEPA** session on modeling in applied analyses happen. Here is a short update. A more lengthy description of the whole project is included in the attached file.

The three main contributions will be offered by (i) Lilyan Fulginiti, (ii) Quirino Paris, and (iii) Rolf Färe and Shawna Grosskopf. Steven Buccola has agreed to serve as the main discussant of all three contributions.

A data series is being constructed and it should be sent to you within the next week.

At present the **IX EWEPA** organizers can commit free conference registration for both presenters and discussant as a small compensation for your considerable efforts. Additional sponsoring budgets are being solicited, but we cannot promise anything for now.

The Session Title:

We are kicking around some alternative titles, but the choices so far are:

- Basic Modelling Issues in Applied Production Analysis
- Highlighting the Context of Discovery in Applied Production Analysis:
Transforming *Heat* into *Light*
- The Production of Insight in Applied Production Analysis

Your suggestions are more than welcome.

The Research Question:

The main research question which we want you to answer is the following:

What are the policy impacts of R&D on U.S. agricultural productivity patterns?

The Session:

The session will be a two-hour period at the end of the day (day to be determined). The schedule of the program is presented below:

Schedule for the session	Presenters	Time
Introduction: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> objectives of session (K. Kerstens) background for problem setting & data set (S. Stefanou) 	K. Kerstens & S. Stefanou	10 minutes
Paper #1	L. Fulginiti	20 minutes
Paper #2	Q. Paris	20 minutes
Paper #3	R. Färe, S. Grosskopf	20 minutes
Discussion & Integration	S. Buccola	15 minutes
Rejoinders	Presenters #1-3	15 minutes (5 min each)
Audience Discussion	Moderator: S. Stefanou	20 minutes
		Total =120 minutes

Ground Rules:

1. Use this data series provided.
 In the interest of giving each contributor the same starting point, we ask that you use this data series. If you feel compelled to draw on additional data or simulations, that is OK, but please specify the additional data series and why you found a need to draw on them.
2. Show the tracking of your efforts and the decisions made to come to the final product.
 We ask that you report the dead-ends and frustrations along with the glorious discoveries. If you are only finding pain and misery, please share it and speculate where the weakness lie (e.g., the model, the data).
3. Archiving of Data and Programs
 Transparency and replication of research products is important given the session's purpose to reveal the context of discovery and showing researchers "at work". Presenters are requested to maintain all programs utilized to generate empirical results. These programs could be archived at the end of the project (this requires a brief description of the content of each program), together with the original data and the description of the session set-up for access by third parties.
4. You may recruit collaborators.

The Paper:

We ask to have a paper (can be preliminary) available for distribution by May 31, 2005.

- We intend to be promoting this session actively in April 2005 on the **IX EWEP**A website, so we can expect interested participants to be looking to read the papers in advance.

Final paper length is 25 pages.

- Note that each of you can eschew the detailed description of the data series, since that will be presented in the introduction to the session. In the hardcopy package, this data series introduction will also be presented.

Post-IX EWEPa Publication Prospects

We intend to aggressively pursue a publication prospect of the session as a package. We have an agreement in principle with Robin Sickles to have the project published as a special issue in the *JPA*.

This will involve satisfying the *JPA*'s guidelines on refereeing each contribution. Robin Sickles is the liaison editor. In line with current *JPA* guidelines on special issues, we must explicitly state the following:

"It is expected that a Special Issue of *JPA* will be published subject to the normal review processes of the Journal".

An alternative prospect is to explore publishing the package as an independent book or monograph project (e.g., Springer which now includes Kluwer).

To this end, we are shooting for a finalization of contributions, refereeing reports and the public debate by December 2005.