



The 3rd International Workshop on Agriculture and Economic Development in Memory of Prof. Yair Mundlak

and

Introduction to

The new International MSc Program in Development Practice

May 21-22, 2018



The Robert H Smith
Faculty of Agriculture,
Food and Environment

The Robert H. Smith Faculty of Agriculture, Food and Environment
Faculty Club, Rehovot campus, Israel

Monday May 21

9:30 – 10:00 Greetings – Benny Chefetz, Dean of the Faculty; Israel Finkelshtain, Head of the Department of Environmental Economics; Moshe Coll, Head of the International School of Agricultural Sciences, Hebrew University

10:00 – 12:00 Session 1: **Development**

Chair: Iddo Kan, Hebrew University

- Albania's struggle with land-use fragmentation – Zvi Lerman (Hebrew University)
- Back from Israel: The Causal Impacts of Training in Modern Farms on Smallholder Cultivation in Nepal – Ram Fishman (Tel-Aviv University)
- Loan Contract Structure and Adverse Selection: Survey Evidence from Uganda – Miri Stryjan (Ben-Gurion University)
- Economic Factors Mediate the Impact of Drought on Farmer Suicides in India – Yoav Rothler (Tel-Aviv University)

12:00 – 13:00 *Lunch*

13:00 – 14:00 Session 2: **Resources and the environment**

Chair: Amir Heiman, Hebrew University

- Resource Windfalls and Public Debt: The Role of Political Myopia – Ohad Raveh and Yacov Tsur (Hebrew University)
- Early-Life Exposure to Air Pollution and Human Capital Accumulation in China – Avi Ebenstein (Hebrew University)

14:00 – 15:30 Session 3: **Israeli economy panel**

Chair: Ayal Kimhi, Hebrew University

- Avi Simhon (Hebrew University and National Economic Council)
- Dan Ben David (Tel-Aviv University and Shores Institution for Socioeconomic Research)
- Zvi Eckstein (Interdisciplinary Center Herzliya)

15:30 – 16:00 *Coffee Break*

16:00 – 16:30 **A new Master's program** in Sustainable Development – Iddo Kan, Israel Finkelshtain, Moshe Coll, Hebrew University

16:30 – 18:00 **Keynote Lecture** - Chair: Zvi Lerman, Hebrew University

- The Economics and Politics of Food Standards – Johan Swinnen (KU Leuven)

Free admission. Please RSVP by contacting Miri Guy at 08-9489230 / miriguy@savion.huji.ac.il



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Tuesday May 22

9:00 – 10:30 Session 4: **Water**

Chair: Aliza Fleischer, Hebrew University

- Water Policy Guidelines -Yacov Tsur (Hebrew University)
- Substitutability of Freshwater and Wastewater in Irrigation – Iddo Kan (Hebrew University)
- An Economic Examination of Wastewater Recycling Role in Solving the Growing Scarcity of Natural Water Resources – Ami Reznik (UC Riverside)

10:30 – 11:00 *Coffee Break*

11:00 – 12:30 Session 5: **Agricultural policy**

Chair: Ziv Bar-Shira, Hebrew University

- Structural Convergence Between the Dairy Sectors of the EU-27 Member States since the Eastern Enlargement – Rico Ihle (Wageningen UR)
- Structural Changes in the Israeli Dairy Farm Sector – Ayal Kimhi (Hebrew University)
- Exploiting Compulsory Crop Insurance for Assessing Adverse Selection – Israel Finkelshtain (Hebrew University)

12:30 – 13:30 *Lunch*

13:30 – 15:30 Session 6: **Food**

Chair: Yacov Tsur, Hebrew University

- The Tradeoff Between Calories, Adopting Healthier Lifestyle and Medicine Intake – Amir Heiman (Hebrew University)
- Dietary Patterns in NENA Region: The Need to Move to a Healthier Diet and Markets – Josef Schmidhuber (FAO) and Rotem Zelingher (Hebrew University)
- Price Transmissions Between World Oil Prices and Wheat Prices in Russia and its Effect on Food Security - Stanislav Yugay (IAMO)
- Micro-Economic Effects of Violent Political Conflict on Fresh Food Markets: Supply, Demand and Market Size – Ziv Bar-Nahum (Hebrew University)

15:30 – 16:00 **Closing session** - Chair: Israel Finkelshtain, Hebrew University

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Keynote Lecture - Monday May 21, 16:30

The Economics and Politics of Food Standards

Johan Swinnen (KU Leuven)

Abstract

Standards have played an important role in food trade for a very long time. Their rapid growth in recent years has triggered vigorous debates on their impacts on international trade and development, with many arguing that standards are “non-tariff barriers” to trade and that standards are marginalizing the poor. I present conceptual frameworks and review empirical evidence on the equity and efficiency effects and the political economy of standards. Models which incorporate essential aspects of standards yield complex theoretical results and nuanced conclusions. Careful empirical analyses support such nuanced arguments and find complex effects. For trade, standards can create welfare gains but also involve rent redistribution which induces lobbying by interest groups to set the standards at their preferred level. This makes it difficult to distinguish socially desirable standards from those resulting from political rent-seeking. For development, it is crucial to explicitly account for (a) the endogeneity of the institutional organization of value chains and (b) both smallholder contracting and employment creation on large scale farms when considering the impact of standards on development and poverty.

About the speaker

Johan Swinnen is Professor of Economics and Director of the LICOS-Centre for Institutions and Economic Performance at the KU Leuven; Senior Research Fellow at the Centre for European Policy Studies (CEPS) in Brussels; a part-time Visiting Scholar at the Centre for Food Security and the Environment (FSE) at Stanford University; and Mercator Fellow at the University of Gottingen. He was President of the International Association of Agricultural Economists (2012-15), Lead Economist at the World Bank (2003-4) and Economic Advisor at the European Commission (1998-2001). He has published widely on agricultural and food policies, political economy, institutional reform, trade, global value chains, and standards. His recent books include *“The Political Economy of Agricultural and Food Policies”* (2018 Palgrave-McMillan), *“Quality Standards, Value Chains and International Development”* (2015, Cambridge Univ. Press); *“Political Power and Economic Policy”* (2011 Cambridge Univ. Press, with Gordon Rausser and Pinhas Zusman), *“The Economics of Chocolate”* (2015, Oxford Univ. Press), *“The Economics of Beer”* (2009 Oxford Univ. Press), *“From Marx and Mao to the Market”* (2006 Oxford Univ. Press – with Scott Rozelle). He holds a PhD from Cornell University.