2005 Progress Report  
FAPRI-University of Pretoria Collaboration  
For UMSAEP  
December 4, 2005

It has been a busy year for the FAPRI-University of Pretoria Collaboration with a great deal achieved on both sides of the Atlantic. Brent Carpenter and Peter Zimmel, FAPRI staff members, visited South Africa as part of the initiative to expand the scope of the Pretoria models to include farm level analysis. Ferdinand Meyer from Pretoria visited FAPRI and worked on their first annual baseline projection publication – projections of key drivers in the agricultural sector in South Africa produced using FAPRI-style methodology. Finally, Jeanette de Beer and Jacky Mampane from Pretoria visited FAPRI to meet with staff in what was intended to be a precursor to longer visits in the future.

Background

The aim of the collaboration is to facilitate academic exchange between the University of Pretoria and the University of Missouri in the area of agricultural economics and the development of econometric modeling capacity for Southern Africa. The collaboration was initiated through exchange between 2002 and 2004, with University of Missouri funding coming through the University of Missouri South African Education Program (UMSAEP). The models are used to provide projections of the main variables for the agriculture and food sector over a period of 10 years, with the ability to provide analysis of policy changes. The unit at University of Pretoria that produces this analysis is now known as BFAP (Bureau for Food and Agricultural Policy).

The development of this kind of modeling and policy analysis capability has proved very useful for a variety of end users including policy makers, industry and the regions’ farmers. BFAP is funded in part by ABSA (a South African bank) and producer groups Maizetrust and Winetech. University of Pretoria benefits from the collaboration through the input from the FAPRI team which has experience and a worldwide reputation in this
kind of modeling. FAPRI benefits by gaining insight into the region from the South African experts.

2005 Activities

Peter Zimmel and Brent Carpenter of FAPRI-Missouri traveled to South Africa in June of 2005. They were in-country for 16 packed days as guests of the BFAP at the University of Pretoria. Their primary host/tour guide was P.G. Strauss of BFAP at the University of Pretoria. P.G has visited FAPRI in the past. The trip placed the Americans in the “middle” of South African rural culture.

![Pictures from the 2005 FAPRI visit to South Africa](image)

The tour was primarily in the rural areas of the Northwest Free State, Northern Cape, and Western Cape provinces. The Americans toured approximately two dozen farms and agribusinesses, including dryland grain farms, irrigated cotton, pork production, beef production and feeding, peanut processing, grain milling, game farming, vineyards, wineries, agricultural input suppliers and marketing agencies. Six formal presentations on U.S. agriculture and farm policy were given. Audiences included land holders, cooperative managers, and researchers at the University of Stellenbosch.

Great deal of discussion on commodity markets, agricultural production, world trade, agricultural policy, farm management issues, land reform, politics, socio-economic issues, freedom, rugby, etc. The emphasis of the tour/project was on policy impacts at the farm-level and risk management issues. Linkages were created and strengthened. A
fantastic, life-changing experience for the Americans who now have a much better understanding of the social and economic challenges of the people of South Africa.

Zimmel and Carpenter were interviewed by deputy editor Julia Kupka and a story about their visit appeared in the Farmer’s Weekly, a popular SA agricultural magazine with national circulation.

Ferdinand Meyer of BFAP visited FAPRI in the summer and worked on the aggregate sector level model that was used to produce the BFAP baseline projections incorporating FAPRI’s projections of world prices. As well as the general aggregate sector model, BFAP’s economists have incorporated stochastic analysis (an approach that enables the inherent uncertainty of the sector to be captured) into their models and extended them to include farm level projections in 2005. Both approaches are common to those undertaken at FAPRI and so FAPRI staff were consulted during the implementation. While in Columbia Ferdi also worked on his PhD and Patrick Westhoff of FAPRI is acting as one of his committee members.

Two more BFAP members, Jeanette de Beer and Jacky Mampane, visited FAPRI for a two week period at the beginning of August. They met with FAPRI staff and familiarised themselves with Columbia. It is hope that they, and other members of staff can come over again for an extended period to work with FAPRI staff.

**Future Plans**

The FAPRI-University of Pretoria collaboration is viewed by FAPRI as being incredibly successful, and we are very grateful to the UMSAEP for making this possible. To date five members of FAPRI staff have visited South Africa and have gained a great deal from this both professionally and personally. Links are strong between staff members in FAPRI and BFAP. FAPRI members are proud of the small role that they have played in the very successful BFAP project.
It is hoped that the collaboration can continue into the future. It is felt that both sides can continue to benefit from the exchange of ideas. FAPRI staff will continue to make themselves available to BFAP members. BFAP staff are likely to visit FAPRI in 2006. Further visits by FAPRI staff to University of Pretoria are also likely, and would probably include some teaching along with working on modelling projects.

Another long term aim of the project would be the consideration of extending FAPRI’s work in Africa, should an appropriate opportunity arise. If a project were to develop, FAPRI’s work with BFAP would undoubtedly be important in bidding for and undertaking such work.

**More information**

For more information, and links to the publications referenced above, please refer to the FAPRI and BFAP websites:

[www.fapri.missouri.edu](http://www.fapri.missouri.edu)
[www.bfap.co.za](http://www.bfap.co.za)

More background information on the project is included in “Final Report for the University of Missouri South African Education Program: FAPRI-UMC Report # 07-04” available on the FAPRI website.

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