



The Three United Nations Rome-based Agencies (RBAs),

- the International Fund for Agricultural Development ([IFAD](#)),
- the Food and Agriculture Organization of the UN ([FAO](#)), and
- the World Food Programme ([WFP](#))

in partnership with:

- the [ICABR](#), The International Consortium on Applied Bioeconomy Research and
- the International Committee of Women in Agricultural Economics ([ICWAE](#)) of the International Association of Agricultural Economists ([IAAE](#))
- [World Bank](#)
- [IFPRI](#)

are pleased to invite you to a 2-day Lightning Talks event on:

“Bridging Research and Policy Responses to COVID-19: Value Chain, Food Security, Women, Youth and Vulnerable Groups”.

The webinar will take place on June 12 and June 19, 2020 at 5 pm CSET.

[Please fill the online form to register to the event](#)

The magnitude and breadth of COVID-19 impacts across the world, as we know today, are colossal and are yet to be quantified, but we already know that nations will experience massive economic downturns, with the IMF predicting a contraction in global growth in 2020.

While western countries are struggling to provide measures to mitigate the economic impacts due to reduced economic activities, the economies of LMICs are more at risk.

As a response, governments have channelled or redirected significant resources toward addressing COVID-19, limiting the resources available for investment in productive sectors or for official development assistance.

Ever, as in the last few months, has the World witnessed an endless number of projections, simulations, and predictions about the evolution of the COVID-19.

Virologists, scientists, economists have tried to use theoretical models to infer the unknown implications of the pandemics. In the meantime, Policy makers were busy more than ever to make fast decisions, actions, and fund allocations.

The two Lightning Talks on **Bridging Research and Policy Responses to COVID-19** aims to bring together academics and policy makers to synthesize responses on the most relevant topics

for the RBAs: the **future of the value chain, food security, of the women, youth and vulnerable groups in the post-lockdown era.**

Program

Day 1: June 12, 2020: Value Chain and Rural Development Theme

Moderator: Sara Savastano, IFAD, ICABR & ICWAE

Policy Perspective : 45 mn	Research Perspective : 45 mn
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • IFAD, Marie Haga – Associate Vice-President, of the External Relations and Governance Department • FAO: Maximo Torero, Chief Economist and Assistant Director General for the Economic and Social Development Department • WFP: Arif Husain, Chief Economist and Director of Research, Assessments & Monitoring Division • World Bank, Gero Carletto, Manager Research Data Group • IFPRI: Jo Swinnen, Director General 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Marc Bellemare, U. Minnesota: Setting the stage • Scott Rozelle, Stanford University : Rural Development • Saweda Liverpool-Tasie, MSU Food Systems • David Zilberman, UC Berkeley; Natural Disasters • Tom Reardon, MSU : Facts & Implications to orient policy discussion about COVID-19

Closing Remarks: Carl Pray, President ICABR

Day 2: June 19, 2020: Food Security, Women, Youth and Vulnerable Groups

Moderator: Romina Cavatassi, IFAD

Policy Perspective	Research Perspective
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • IFAD, Paul Winters – Associate Vice President • Uma Lele , President Elect IAAE & ICWAE • World Bank: Haishan Fu, Director Development Data Group • FAO: Ben Davis, Strategic Programme Leader, Rural Poverty Reduction (SP3). • IFPRI: Ruth Meizen-Dick, Senior Fellow 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Sangeeta Bansal, Centre for International Trade and Development, Jawaharlal Nehru University, New Delhi. & ICWAE Health and Nutrition • Chris Barrett, Cornell U. : Food Security • Madhu Khanna, University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign & AAEA President Elect & ICWAE. The agro-environmental technologies • Joanna Upton Cornell U. , High frequency survey data • Ruerd Ruben , Wageningen University Food Security and Nutrition

Closing Remarks: Justus Wesseler, Wageningen University and President Elect of ICABR