

Pre-Conference on Establishing a Sustainable Rural Economy

June 11th, 2024

Niemeyer Auditorium, Ravello



Much of the bioeconomy activities will be done in rural regions with agricultural and natural resource industries. These regions suffer from low income, poverty, temporary jobs, and high physical and financial risk. Policies that combine investment in research and infrastructure and incentives and regulations to implement them are needed to vitalize rural regions and establish the bioeconomy there. Mutual learning from important case studies can provide information for developing the bioeconomy in rural areas. The conference will have three sessions. First, an overview of the challenges associated with designing and implementing a successful rural development policy and a session on some lessons from California and other countries. Finally, we’ll have a panel presenting some of the lessons. The pre-conference will be multidisciplinary, including political scientists, economists, lawyers, and practitioners.

We will emphasize a discussion at the end of the sessions that will lead to a foundation for future collaborations.

1) Introductory Session – 9 AM – 10:20 AM

a) Welcome – Bruce Pickering, Director of Inland California Project, UCSF. 15 mins.

b) Political Challenges for Developing Technologies for Sustainable

Development - John Zysman, Professor of Political Science, UC

Berkeley, zysman.john@gmail.com. 20 mins.

c) Gaining from Innovation Policies – Dan Breznitz, University of Toronto

ipl.codirector@utoronto.ca. 20 mins.

d) Discussion – 35 mins.

2) Break – 10:30 AM – 10:40 AM

3) California – 10:40 AM – 12:10 PM

a) Automation and Robotics: Potential in California, Tom Harmon,

Professor of Engineer UC Merced, tharmon@ucmerced.edu. 20 mins.

b) Innovation and Adoption of Technologies in California Agriculture: The

Lessons of the Past and Potential for the Future - David Zilberman. 20

mins.

c) Legal Constraints on technological development - John Cioffi, UC

Riverside, cioffi@ucr.edu. 20 mins.

d) Discussion – 30 mins.

4) Lunch – 12:10 PM – 1:30 PM

5) Other developing countries – 1:30 – 3:00 PM

a) Lessons from Denmark - Soren Jorgensen, Technology Lawyer. sorenjuuljorgensen@gmail.com. 25 mins.

b) Lessons from Japan - Kenji Kushida, Senior Fellow at the Carnegie, Endowment for International Peace Asia Program Kenji.Kushida@ceip.org. 25 mins.

c) Lessons from Israel – Ruslana Rachel Palatnik, Israel Valley College,

rusalik@gmail.com, David Zilberman. 25 mins.

d) Discussion – 15 mins.

6) Conclusion and Discussion – Bruce Pickering. 3:00 PM – 4:00 PM