



Welcome to the 24<sup>th</sup> Annual ICABR Conference

Accelerating the Bioeconomy: Growth through  
Applied Research and Policy Change

**Carl E. Pray**

President ICABR

Distinguished Professor at Rutgers, the State University of New Jersey

# The justification and goals of the conference as of September 2019

- Global economic growth was slowing, unemployment was up and environmental destruction was growing.
- This conference examines the **possible contributions of the bioeconomy** to economic growth, employment and the environment.
- Analyze policy changes, investments and technological breakthroughs that **stimulate bioeconomy contributions**
- A **major goal of the conference** was to identify the policies, investments and innovations that are justified by analysis and have proven useful to policy makers.

# COVID-19 fundamentally changed the structure but not the substance of the conference

- Argentinians, IICA and ICABR agreed to cancel the conference in Cordoba, but that a conference on using the **Bioeconomy to Build Back Better** was more important than ever
  - **Countries where economies had been growing**, now faced record breaking unemployment and economic decline. Economies that were already weak, fell into depressions.
  - **Climate change amplified** the disastrous impacts of hurricanes and cyclones, wildfires, droughts, and record-breaking high temperatures.
    - The pandemic, combined with climate disasters disrupted lives, caused political unrest and malaise in many countries and disrupted policy making and investments in innovation and the environment globally.
  - The growth of the Bioeconomy offers a pathway to stimulate growth and mitigate climate change.
- In June and July 2020 we experimented with a series of webinars. In August in collaboration with Argentina's Ministry and IICA we decided to move the conference online.

# The Program has Five Plenary Sessions Oct.12-14

- **The speakers are policy makers, scholars and leaders of private firms**
  - Today – Experiences of policy makers about what works in their countries
    - Plenary I: Policies for Bioeconomy Growth as part of COVID-19 Recovery in the Americas
  - Tomorrow: Challenges and options for intervention post-COVID-19
    - Plenary II. Climate Change, Environment and the Bioeconomy
    - Plenary III. The Role of Bioenergy
  - Wednesday: Technological opportunities and policy options
    - Plenary IV. The New Biologicals: Experiences in Management and Development of Bio-inputs
    - Plenary V Bioeconomy for the Economic Recovery
- **Speakers include leaders from FAO, IICA, IFAD, the US Grains Council and Ministries in Argentina, Brazil, Colombia, Costa Rica and Uruguay**

The  
submitted  
papers  
cluster  
around five  
related  
topics:

1. The bioeconomy in South America, the EU and Africa
2. The environment, climate change and agriculture
3. Agricultural innovation and policies in Africa, the Americas and China.
4. Agriculture and food supply chains
5. Biofuel in South America

# The Program: Submitted Papers

- October 12<sup>th</sup> through the 21<sup>st</sup>.
- 20 panels, 85 papers
- Presenters: 29 from Africa, 28 South American, 17 North America, 8 from Europe and 3 from Asia
- Many outstanding scholars

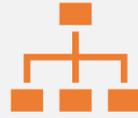
# The International Consortium for Applied Bioeconomic Research (ICABR) is a network of scholars registered as a society in Italy

- Started in 1996 in Rome with a conference focusing on the economics of biodiversity and biotechnology Bob Evenson, Yale; Vittorio Santaniello, U. of Rome Tor Vergata; and David Zilberman, U.C. Berkeley.
- 1997 Due to the importance of the agricultural biotechnology debates we named the organization the **International Consortium on Agricultural Biotechnology Research**
- Added fermentation: biofuel, bioenergy and wine/beer as key components and changed the name of the conference to the **International Consortium on Applied Bioeconomy Research in 2009**
- 2014 ICABR Nairobi conference was the first conference outside Italy
- 2017 U. of California, Berkeley to learn about CRISPR and gene editing
- 2018 World Bank. Washington DC. Disruptive Innovations, Value Chain and Rural Development
- Annual meetings not mentioned above were in Ravello.

# Thanks for the Financial and In-Kind Support

- ICABR is normally self-financed with 66% through conference fees, 10% from partner universities, 24% from foundations and corporations.
- This year's conference supported by grant funding from U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) and from IICA.
- Large amounts of in-kind support from the Ministry, IICA, ICABR Board members.

# My Special Thanks to the People who Made this Conference Possible



## ICABR Board:

Sara Savastano, Justus Wesseler, Stuart Smyth, Regina Birner, Travis Reynolds, Pasquale Scandizzo, David Zilberman, and José Maria F.J. da Silveira



## ICABR committee that moved ICABR online.

Stuart Smyth, U. of Saskatchewan; Regina Birner, U. of Hohenheim; and Travis Reynolds, U. of Vermont  
Agustin Torroba who led the **IICA** component online



## Local organizing committee led by Miguel Almada

Agustin Torroba, Dalia Marcela Lewi, Maria Murmis, Hugo Chavarria, Edith Obschatko, Eduardo Trigo, Karina Casellas, Regina Birner, Travis Reynolds, Justus Wesseler, and José Maria da Silveira



Thanks to Andrés Murchison and Martin Lema who worked with us to start organizing the conference in 2019

Special thanks to my friend Eduardo Trigo who introduced me to Argentina in 1984 and supported this conference from the beginning.

# What is unique about this year's conference?

First conference where we worked so closely with the government of a country – Argentina -- and a regional agricultural organization – IICA - to develop a conference aimed at their policy makers and scholars.

Largest number of Latin American scholars and policy-makers participating

Sadly, the first time I can not talk to our great speakers over coffee, wine and dinner.

# Invitation to publish papers presented here in a special issue of *Sustainability*



*sustainability*

an Open Access Journal by MDPI



Accelerating Bioeconomy Growth through  
Applied Research and Policy Change

**Guest Editors**

Prof. Dr. Justus H.H. Wesseler, Prof. Dr. David Zilberman

**Deadline**

30 November 2020

**Special** Issue

[mdpi.com/si/49082](https://mdpi.com/si/49082)

Invitation to submit

Invitation to our 25<sup>th</sup> ICABR conference in June 2021. It will be a hybrid conference based in Ravello, Italy

