



## Call for Papers

# Structural Transformation of African Agriculture and Rural Spaces Conference

Addis Ababa, Ethiopia  
December 4-5, 2015

### Background

Sub-Saharan Africa is rapidly urbanizing and experiencing accelerated economic growth. Yet the number of people living in extreme poverty remains distressingly high. Moreover, growing empirical evidence on poverty traps suggests persistence in extreme poverty, especially among those living in rural areas and working in agriculture. Harnessing the gains from growth and development for the alleviation of rural poverty requires boosting the productivity of land, labor, and other agricultural inputs through improved technology adoption and the elimination of factors that constrain investment, the efficient use of resources, and risk mitigation. Recently available household- and individual-level data sources, such as the Living Standards Measurement Study-Integrated Surveys on Agriculture (LSMS-ISA), present new possibilities to understand the opportunities and constraints facing rural households and learn from recent experiences. New micro-level insights based on rigorous research using high quality data can guide the emerging macro-level policy discourse around the structural transformation of African economies, and especially of African agriculture and the continent's rural spaces.

### Conference

Cornell University, in partnership with the African Development Bank (AfDB), the African Economic Research Consortium (AERC), the Partnership for Economic Policy (PEP), and the World Bank, invites the submission of papers to be considered for presentation at a high-level conference on the Structural Transformation of African Agriculture and Rural Spaces, to be held on **December 4-5, 2015** in **Addis Ababa, Ethiopia**, immediately following the AERC Biannual Research Workshop.

This event will bring together top-tier researchers from around the world and high-level policymakers to advance the dialogue on structural transformation in Sub-Saharan Africa and improve the feedback between the researchers who produce and analyze data and the policymakers who rely on timely and high quality research to improve decisions. The organizers invite submissions from all areas of work related to the micro-foundations of structural

transformation in Sub-Saharan Africa, including but not limited to: agricultural productivity and innovation, technology adoption, labor productivity, factor market performance, non-farm labor and labor re-allocation, human capital investment and dynamics, financing and risk management, market access, and related fields of policy-relevant inquiry.

The conference will conclude with a policy roundtable session focused on distilling core messages for a policy-focused audience.

All submissions must focus on Sub-Saharan Africa and use micro-level data on individuals, households, firms, or other organizations. Papers authored by African scholars are particularly encouraged. The organizers plan to produce two special editions of peer-reviewed journals in order to ensure both a high standard of quality control and distribution to a wide audience as a collection of papers.

### **Submission Instructions**

Extended abstracts (of length 3-5 pages) explaining precisely the core question(s), data and methods used, and (anticipated) findings or complete papers should be submitted by email to [staars@cornell.edu](mailto:staars@cornell.edu) before **August 1, 2015**. Acceptance decisions will be communicated within six weeks of the submission deadline. The African Development Bank will cover all economy class travel costs for one author/presenter of a limited number of the papers selected for inclusion in the program. For more information, contact Dr. Paul Christian at [staars@cornell.edu](mailto:staars@cornell.edu).

### **Organizing Committee**

Prof. Lemma Senbet, University of Maryland and Executive Director, African Economic Research Consortium

Prof. Chris Barrett, Cornell University

Dr. Luc Christiaensen, Africa Region, World Bank

Dr. Bekele Shiferaw, Executive Director, Partnership for Economic Policy

Dr. Abebe Shimeles, Development Research Division, African Development Bank

Dr. Witness Simbanegavi, Director of Research, African Economic Research Consortium