

The Center for Agricultural Economic Research

The Halbert Centre for Canadian Studies

Authority for Research & Development



**Emerging Issues in Agricultural Economics - Farms and Farming People:
Structure and Connections to Food Security and Rural Communities**

An International Workshop

Rehovot, Israel, May 29 – June 2, 2011

Scientific Organizers

Ayal Kimhi, Department of Agricultural Economics and Management, The Hebrew University

Ray D. Bollman, Chief of Rural Research Group, Agriculture Division, Statistics Canada

Workshop summary

The workshop focused on the situation and emerging issues in agriculture, food and rural affairs in Canada and Israel, as well as in other countries. The program included three days of lectures and discussions and two field trips. A total of 30 oral presentations and one poster presentation were given. Participants included 18 foreign academics (six of which are Canadian) and 18 Israeli academics, as well as roughly 15 other participants, mostly students, who participated less regularly.

The following Canadian topics were discussed during the workshop:

- The political economy of farming, agriculture and food in a food-surplus country
- The unchanging structure of the inter-face of farmers and farms in Canada
- Economic flows from farming families and their farms to the local economy and the flows from the local economy to farming families and their farms: implications for agriculture and rural policy
- Can co-operatives and credit unions in rural communities, both largely created to support farms and the farming community, continue to serve this role?
- Comparative changes in industry structure with the policy instrument of tradable marketing quotas: The case of the Canadian dairy industry
- Planning for the next generation: factors affecting succession decisions among Canadian farm families

The scientific content of the workshop is a wide panorama of the agricultural sector and how it fits into the rural community. All the dimensions discussed are affected by the changing structure of agriculture, and have important policy implications. The perspectives of the Canadian specialists and their Israeli counterparts benefited both sides and will stimulate further scientific collaborations.