

GROUP for ANALYSIS of PERFORMANCE in ECONOMICS and MANAGEMENT	GROUPE d' ANALYSE de la PERFORMANCE en ECONOMIE et MANAGEMENT
IFRESI (LILLE)	IAG (Louvain-la-Neuve)
Sponsoring institution:	IESEG & LEM (Lille)

Dear colleagues,

You are cordially invited to a seminar of GAPEM on Wednesday June 13th 2007 between 14h00–15h30 at IESEG, 3 rue de la Digue, Lille (www.ieseg.fr). The seminar room is A-320. This seminar is also part of the LEM cycle of seminars.

PROGRAM

Steven Van Passel (Policy Research for Sustainable Agriculture, Belgium)
& Guido Van Huylenbroeck (University Ghent, Belgium)

Factors of Farm Performance:
An Empirical Analysis of Structural and Managerial Characteristics

The second co-author is Ludwig Lauwers (Centre fo Agricultural Economics, Belgium). An abstract is found on the next page.

Sample of publications of both speakers:

- Van Passel, S. F. Nevens, E. Mathijs, G. Van Huylenbroeck (2007) Measuring Farm Sustainability and Explaining Differences in Sustainable Efficiency, *Ecological Economics*, 62(1), 149–161.
- Vanslebrouck, I., G. Van Huylenbroeck, J. Van Meensel (2005) Impact of Agriculture on Rural Tourism: A Hedonic Pricing Approach, *Journal of Agricultural Economics*, 56, 17–30.
- Vanslebrouck, I., G. Van Huylenbroeck, W. Verbeke (2002) Determinants of the Willingness of Belgian Farmers to Participate in Agri-environmental Measures, *Journal of Agricultural Economics*, 53, 489–511.

For any additional information on this event, please do not hesitate to contact:
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Steven Van Passel (Policy Research for Sustainable Agriculture, Belgium)
& Guido Van Huylenbroeck (University Ghent, Belgium)

Factors of Farm Performance: An Empirical Analysis of Structural and Managerial Characteristics

Abstract:

The agricultural sector faces a continuous process of structural change, which has important consequences for productivity and efficiency of farming. A consistent way of monitoring this process, and to support related policy making, is to analyse the performance of agricultural farms with productive efficiency techniques. In this chapter, the impact of managerial and structural characteristics on farm efficiency is analysed with a stochastic frontier model. First, an overview is given of similar studies looking to relations between structural characteristics, agent factors, and efficiency. Next, an empirical productive efficiency analysis is done on an unbalanced panel of 1018 Flemish farms over a 14-years period (1989–2002). The stochastic production frontier is estimated using the random-effects model with time-invariant efficiency, and with the translog as functional form. Finally, the stochastic production function is extended with extra regressors, to understand why farms differ in their relative efficiency. Empirical results show significant effects of education, the prospect of succession, farm size, type and location, age of farmers, solvency, and dependency on subsidies. Results are discussed in terms of capacities and incentives to perform better. Insight of the impact of these determinants helps to understand the driving factors of structural change and how policy may respond to it.