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Report Sharmin Akter 2025

I would like to express my sincere gratitude to SGA for their financial support. This year, I had the opportunity to attend the 50th European Association of Agricultural Economists (EAAE) conference, which was held in Bonn in 2025. This congress is one of the largest and most relevant events in the field of agricultural economics. This year, it set a record with over 1,000 participants from more than 50 countries. The event featured a diverse program, from plenary sessions on food system transformation and sustainability, to a wide range of contributed papers, posters, organized symposia, and pre-congress workshops. Among them the organized sessions were my favorite because they delved more deeply into specific themes and were thoroughly discussed.

At the conference, I presented the findings of one of my doctoral project papers titled "Behavioral economic factors toward pesticide-free production in Swiss wheat and maize production". In this study, we investigate how farmers' behavioral characteristics (for example, risk preferences, perceptions, self-efficacy, and locus of control) influence their pesticide-free (but non-organic) production systems uptake decision. I have received interesting and constructive feedback from my fellow researchers, and I have had the opportunity to learn about related studies and exchange ideas with others working on similar topics across Europe. Also, the pre-congress workshop on Systematic Reviews turned out to be a valuable bonus for another ongoing paper of mine-a systematic review on Integrated Pest Management (IPM). It offered valuable insights into different systematic review methods, which I found highly relevant and informative for my ongoing and future research.

In addition to the academic sessions, the congress offered a lively and well-organized social program. For example, there were football matches, yoga sessions, and a visit to the beautiful Bonn Botanical Garden. It was also an amazing opportunity to reunite with many colleagues and friends, especially fellow PhD researchers based in Bonn. We even had an informal alumni gathering where we shared ideas and experiences. All in all, attending the EAAE 2025 Congress was a really inspiring and rewarding experience.

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