With the support of the CIERP Travel Fund for Experiential Learning, I presented my job market paper at the Agricultural and Applied Economics Association (AAEA) Annual Meeting on July 25, 2023. The AAEA’s annual meeting is one of the biggest conferences in the field of agricultural and applied economics. The conference brings together more than 1,000 attendees from different countries around the world. This year the annual meeting was held in Washington, DC, which is a very strategic location.

I have benefited from attending the AAEA annual meeting in several ways. First, it was a great opportunity to present my job market paper in front of a diverse audience. Second, I received helpful feedback from the discussant of my paper as well as the attendees of my session. Third, I got a chance to network with fellow researchers during lunch and coffee breaks, meet-up events, and conference reception.

My presentation title was “Pricing and Allocation Efficiency of a New Agricultural Technology: Evidence from Bangladesh”. In this paper, I use a field experiment to examine whether increasing price subsidies differentially allocate agricultural inputs to farmers with higher or lower returns. The subsidized agricultural input in my study is an improved wheat seed that has recently been introduced in Bangladesh. The experimental design is a two-stage experiment in which I randomize the subsidy rate for the improved seed in the first stage. In the second stage, I revisit a random sub-set of the farmers who decided not to buy the seed at the first stage and offer them the same seed for free. The results show that switching from a modest price subsidy in stage one to a full subsidy in stage two resulted in an increase in adoption by farmers whose returns to adoption are similar to the returns of the average farmer in the population. This finding has important policy implications on whether higher subsidies on agricultural inputs are more or less disruptive than lower subsidies.

My participation at the AAEA annual meeting was a great learning experience. The feedback I received on my presentation was very useful for improving the framing of my research question and main results. The networking meetings and events helped me pitch research ideas to fellow researchers with wide range of expertise. Overall, I am grateful to CIERP for their support that allowed me to present my paper at the AAEA annual meeting in Washington, DC.
"Pricing and Allocative Efficiency of A New Agricultural Technology"

Mai Mahmoud

1This is an ongoing project that is funded by the Strategic Performance Indicator Assessment (SPIA), and implemented in collaboration with the CIMMYT Wheat Improvement Center.
This Paper...

Research Question:
- Do higher input prices screen out farmers who prefer short duration varieties?

Methodology:
- A two-stage randomized controlled trial
- Examines whether price subsidies for improved seed can stimulate adoption by farmers

Agricultural Setting:
- Heterogeneity in returns due to farm characteristics, access to complementary factors
- Returns are uncertain implies greater risk in realized returns
- The new technology has produced higher yields (take-up ≠ adoption)