

C19 – 15 September 2016, 11:00am

Faculty of the Professions

Presiding: Chancellor

Citation for conferral of Doctor of Economics (honoris causa): Dr Derek Byerlee

Chancellor, I present to you Derek Byerlee.

Derek Byerlee completed his undergraduate studies in agronomy at the University of Adelaide in 1965, a Masters in Agricultural Economics at the University of New England in 1968, and a PhD in Agricultural and Natural Resources Economics at Oregon State University in 1971.

He joined Michigan State University in 1971 where he carried out research, teaching and postgraduate supervision, with a special focus on West Africa. While at Michigan State University, he designed and supervised some of the most extensive household surveys conducted in sub-Saharan Africa. Those surveys integrated the agricultural production, non-farm, consumption and migration dimensions of agricultural development and food security.

In 1977 he joined the Economics Program at the International Maize and Wheat Improvement Centre, or CIMMYT, in Mexico where he helped pioneer multidisciplinary farming systems research approaches.

His field work on multiple cropping systems and joint production of grain and fodder resulted in significant changes in research. In 1987 he was promoted to Director of Economics at CIMMYT. And during his time as Director, the Centre's Economics Program flourished as a high-quality scientific program.

Dr. Byerlee's early contributions in agricultural science and technology policy provided new tools, bringing scientists closer to farmers. He was lead author of the Centre's manual, "Planning Technologies Appropriate to Farmers," which was the forerunner of a new branch of participatory research. It was from this work, that he published his most cited articles and developed a reputation as a global leader in institutional aspects of developing strong national agricultural research systems as well as conducting cutting-edge research on the efficiency of research systems.

In 1994, Derek Byerlee moved to the World Bank in Washington DC where he was instrumental in developing a broader systems approach to research, extension and educational organisations. In 2002 he published his work on intellectual property rights, "Accessing Modern Science", which has been extensively used by global agencies and developing countries in formulating biotechnology policies.

In 2003 the World Bank appointed him as its Rural Strategy and Policy Advisor, then in 2005 he became Leader, Agricultural and Rural Development and finally in 2006 he was appointed Co-Director of the highly influential World Development Report 2008: Agriculture for Development.

Since leaving the World Bank in 2008, his work has been focused in the area of agribusiness investment, land policy and sustainable land use in developing countries. A path-breaking and highly cited 2011 report with Klaus Deininger was followed by a series of papers on the rise of large agribusiness farms in developing countries, a historical review of the fall and rise of plantations, and inclusive business models for agricultural investment.

Dr. Byerlee has also been very influential in the Consultative Group on International Agricultural Research or the CGIAR system, well beyond his early CIMMYT work. From 2008-2012 Dr. Byerlee

chaired the CGIAR's Standing Panel on Impact Evaluation. Such evaluation brought economic assessments into science research priority setting, something that he helped to spread globally.

In 2014 he published a co-authored book on Crop Yields and Global Food Security. In 2015 he became Editor-in-Chief of the new Elsevier journal, *Global Food Security*. And a book on the impacts of intensification on land use and deforestation will be published next month by Oxford University Press.

Derek Byerlee's long and valuable contributions to the economics of agricultural development are internationally recognised. In addition to the body of work discussed, he was elected a Fellow of the American Agricultural and Applied Economics Association in 2003 and granted Honorary Life Membership of the International Association of Agricultural Economists in 2015.

I am very pleased and proud to present to you Chancellor, Dr Derek Byerlee, Bachelor of Science, Master of Science, Doctor of Philosophy, for admission to the honorary degree of Doctor of Economics (*honoris causa*).