



EUROPEAN ASSOCIATION OF AGRICULTURAL ECONOMIST ASSOCIATION EUROPEENNE DES ECONOMISTES AGRICOLES

P.O. Box 29703, NL-2502 LS The Hague, The Netherlands
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Louis-Pascal Mahé

Louis-Pascal (L-P) Mahé is an emeritus Professor at Agrocampus-Ouest since 2003. Before, he has been a Professor in the same institute for 13 years, from 1990 to 2003. But L-P Mahé has spent the bulk of his career as a researcher in INRA (National Institute of Agronomic Research): more than 20 years from 1967 to 1990.

L-P Mahé was first trained as an agronomist, and got an engineer degree in France. He then studied economics at the Paris University before deciding that studying in a US university was at the time the best way to be exposed to modern micro and macroeconomics. He went through the whole graduate program at University of Minnesota where he got his PhD *summa cum laude* in 1976. His skills at the time are still a source of anecdote in the profession. A) The signatories of this proposal consider that L-P Mahé's knowledge, intuitions and skills in microeconomics, international economics, public economics and policy evaluations are simply outstanding. When L-P Mahé raises his hand to speak during an academic seminar, the entire audience knows that a very relevant and sophisticated comment will be made, regardless of the technicity of the paper and the aura of the presenter.

After he left the University of Minnesota and went back to France, L-P Mahé joined INRA. During this period, he spent some time at the French Ministry of Finances as well as at the Organisation of Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD). Years later, he moved to teaching at Agrocampus-Ouest, where he maintained a considerable research activity, as testified by his impressive list of publications. L-P Mahé has occupied senior positions both at INRA and in other institutions, including the presidency of the French Agricultural Economics Association (SFER). L-P Mahé has developed his research work along two main directions: i) analyzing and assessing the impacts of the Common Agricultural Policy (CAP) and its reforms; and ii) analysing international trade and trade negotiations, in particular those under the auspices of the GATT and then World Trade Organisation (WTO). His contribution to assessing the impact of agricultural and trade policies on agricultural and food domestic and world markets is multifold.

L-P Mahé has been one of the pillars of the development of international collaborations within Europe and across the Atlantic and his contribution to what has become a gigantic network under the European Association of Agricultural Economists (EAAE) should not be underestimated. L-P Mahé has intensively contributed to advising policy makers through his in-depth and thorough analysis/assessment of the CAP as well as of the process of the multilateral trade negotiations and the political economy of WTO members' positions. In France he was one of the first academics to work closely with policy makers. In this area, his influence on the shaping of the Common Agricultural Policy is outstanding and multi-faceted even though his work has been in the background thinking that has led to reform the CAP towards both a more market-oriented and a more environmentally friendly policy. Recently, his work with the think-tank "Notre Europe" was a major source of inspiration for the EU Commission, even though at the end, and in particular because of the Parliament's amendments, the reform fell short of Mahé's ambitions, to his own great regret.

As a professor at Agrocampus-Ouest, L-P Mahé has contributed to renew the teaching of





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Economics for agricultural engineers, emphasizing the theoretical foundations of Agricultural Economics on the one hand, and developing international relations on the other hand.

A) At the University of Minnesota, Mahé and his classmates were taught economics by economists such as Christopher Sims and Thomas Sargent. When Sargent got the Nobel prize in 2011, Maury Bredahl then at University of Guelph circulated an email reminding some of their former classmates how L-P Mahé, a particularly brilliant and demanding student, used to challenge and often correct Sargent's maths in class (email received by JC Bureau on 12/10/2010).

As a researcher, L-P Mahé has been a pioneer in France in sector and market modeling

When L.P. Mahé started to work as a researcher at INRA, agricultural economics was not a discipline as we mean it today. Economics and social issues relating to agriculture were dealt with by agronomists who had benefitted from a very light teaching and training to the theoretical foundations of the scientific discipline Economics. Only a handful of economists had been exposed to modern economics during their studies in the United States. L-P Mahé has been one of the few pioneers in France who turned agricultural economics into a science open to modern economic approaches.

L-P Mahé's role was particularly important in the area of modeling of markets and trade. He was particularly a pioneer in the development of mathematical models both in France but also in the international community through his role at the OECD, where he contributed to develop the MTM (Ministerial Trade Mandate) model (intensively used during the Uruguay Round negotiations). The French government still uses the model of the French agricultural sector (MAGALI) whose first version was developed by L-P Mahé for the Ministry of finances in the early 1980s. His MISS (Modèle International Simplifié de Simulation) model, was developed as a fully integrated software for sale. Its pioneering user friendly interface made it possible to be used by the French government, the European Commission and researchers at US institutions, thus showing how successful L-P Mahé has been in transferring research work and tools to policy makers, on the one hand, and to students on the other hand. MISS was intensively used for analyzing and assessing the successive CAP reforms, the rationale of the WTO members' positions in the multilateral trade negotiations, the European Union (EU) dairy policy, etc. L-P Mahé also piloted the development of the first computable general equilibrium model focusing on French agriculture (MEGAAF).

L-P Mahé has largely contributed to open the French agricultural economics profession to foreign colleagues

For two decades, L-P Mahé, together with M. Petit and J.M Boussard, were the only French economists to publish their work internationally. It is only at the end of the 1980s that a new generation, largely trained by L-P Mahé, started to make French research more visible. L-P Mahé can be considered as a pioneer in France regarding the development of collaborations with European colleagues (and also US colleagues).

Throughout his professional career spanning four decades, L-P Mahé has been somewhat prolific in his academic publications. The number of L-P Mahé's publications in peer-reviewed journals (both French and international, see attached list) is impressive in the context.

L-P Mahé has been a member of the Board of the French Association of Agricultural Economists (SFER) from 1990 to 1993 and the President of this association from 2001 to 2003. During both these periods, L-P Mahé has served the French agricultural economics profession in a diligent and effective way, thus contributing to renew this association, open it to young colleagues and to promote the links with European sister's associations.

L-P Mahé also contributed to shape up the European agricultural economics profession. He is part



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of the group of economists who were involved in the mid 1980s "Disharmonies" project, together with economists like M. Petit, T. Josling, S. Tangermann, D. Harvey and others. This early network played a considerable role in the cooperation, not only within the European Community but also between European and North American economists. This effort has shaped modern research on agricultural trade and its impact can still be felt in the large network of economists collaborating on within the International Agricultural Trade Research Consortium (IATRC). L-P Mahé has been a member of the EAAE board from 1984 to 1993. As such, he has served the European agricultural economics profession but also he has contributed to develop relations and collaborations between the French agricultural economists and their colleagues in other European countries.

L-P Mahé is one of the most well-known specialists of the CAP in France and in the EU

L-P Mahé has published numerous papers and reports providing a thorough and theoretically founded analysis and evaluation of the CAP (see attached list). He has thus intensively contributed to the debate, within the agricultural economics profession, on how to measure the support to agriculture and its effects on farms and markets, how to capture the incidence of the various support instruments, how to model these instruments and their market impacts. Doing this he has also largely contributed to make the views of the agricultural economics profession more known and visible to policy makers.

During his career, L-P Mahé has worked with and for many public institutions, either French: Ministry of Finances, Ministry of Agriculture, "Commissariat Général du Plan", Préfecture de Bretagne, or foreign: EU Commission, USDA, FAO, the World Bank, etc. This clearly illustrates his continuous willingness and commitment to support policy decision-makers and contribute to the public debate on agricultural policies. In 2006, Pr. L-P Mahé was asked, together with Pr. J.C. Bureau, by Mr. Pascal Lamy and the late Mr. Tomaso Padoa-Schiopa, to set up a team working on agricultural policy reform within the think-tank "Notre Europe" created by Jacques Delors. L-P Mahé was asked to develop independent analysis on this issue to EU policy makers, ahead of the coming CAP reform. L-P Mahé headed the CAP reform group of "Notre Europe". His work "CAP reform beyond 2013: An idea for a longer view", published in 2008, received a lot of public attention. He was asked numerous times to discuss his proposals with the Commission which largely picked some of them, such as submitting a slice of payments to tougher environmental constraints. His most advanced ideas, though, such as capping payments to individuals, making payments contractual and non transferable to avoid capitalization in land, and to reduce what would become the "base payment" to much lower levels, would have made a much fairer and efficient CAP if they had all been adopted by policy makers.

L-P Mahé has substantially contributed to renew the teaching of Agricultural Economics to agricultural engineers

L-P Mahé has been a Professor of Economics (1990-2003) and the Director of the Economics and Management division (1993-1997) at Agrocampus-Ouest (belonging to the French network of national schools which train agricultural engineers) in Rennes. During this period he fought and succeeded in:

- imposing a solid teaching in Economics in the basic first two years teaching of agricultural engineers;
- proposing and consolidating a specialization in Applied Agricultural Economics during the third year teaching;
- renewing and consolidating the teaching program in Agricultural Economics in Agrocampus-Ouest now based on the theoretical frameworks of Microeconomics, International Economics, Political Economy and quantitative methods applied to agriculture.



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Professors in economics at Agrocampus-Ouest continue to use L-P Mahé's original exercises that are particularly well adapted and ingenious to understand the economic theory applied to agricultural topics.

Although taking actions aimed at improving the training of students in Agricultural Economics, L-P Mahé also acted to develop international collaborations by promoting exchanges of students between Agrocampus-Ouest and other agricultural teaching institutions in Europe. In the 1990's he initiated a semester exchange programme called « European master of Agricultural Economics and agribusiness » with Wageningen University (Netherlands), Åss University (Norway) and Sienna University (Italy). This was prior to the ERASMUS programme and the international masters which have emerged afterwards.