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EDITOR'S NOTE

Dear Colleagues,

We have another great issue that pushes some important boundaries, but first I need to congratulate IFAMA and the IFAMR on our best year ever. Our mission is to provide food and agribusiness scholars with a platform to maximize the impact of their work and 2014 closed with more submissions than ever—up 11% over last year, and up five-fold over the last six years! And we published more of your work setting a new high water mark, 10% above our previous best in 2012. We produced four regular issues and two special issues—one working with members from Economic Research Service (ERS/USDA) on issues concerning Food and Health; and a second containing a collection of case studies on successful African entrepreneurship. We have also purposefully increased our distribution and reviewers outside our traditional base, and added a fabulous South African Managing Editor, Ajuruchukwu Obi. As a result we have quietly increased the number of scholars (one third) publishing with us from outside North America and Europe, up 45% over the last three years. By the way, we now have the highest Impact Factor among peer journals ☺.

Be on the lookout for an upcoming Special Issue produced by members from ERS looking at the dynamic global poultry industry.

I'd like to thank Corrine Alexander, a professor from Purdue University and a longtime Managing Editor, who will be stepping down this year. What a great asset she has been to the IFAMR, and critical to its recent growth and development. At the same time we welcome our newest Managing Editor, Michael Gunderson, Associate Professor and Associate Director of Research for the Center for Food and Agricultural Business at Purdue University. It's great to have Michael on our team.

Now onto this great issue. Let me draw your attention three articles from Asia. The first is a great case study from China on the Smithfield acquisition by Shuanghui International. The second is a very tight case study on a dairy processor in Tajikistan. Both will make nice additions to your teaching materials. A third article from China introduces a unique analysis of cooperative behavior and member commitment.

There is a lot more in this issue and I wish you happy reading!

Peter Goldsmith, Executive Editor, IFAMR

