

Professor Wendy UMBERGER is an expert in agricultural development and food policy and has worked on food system issues across the Indo-Pacific region. She is currently the President of Australia's Policy Advisory Council (for International Agricultural Research and Development). From 2013 to 2022 she was the Foundation Executive Director at the Centre for Global Food and Resources at the University of Adelaide and a Professor in the School of Economics and Public Policy. Professor Umberger is a Director of the International Association of Agricultural Economics (IAAE), an Honorary Fellow of Food Standards Australia New Zealand, and a Distinguished Fellow of the Australasian Agricultural and Resource Economics Society. She served two-terms (2015-2021) on the governance board of the International Crops Research Institute for Semi- Arid Tropics.

Professor Umberger has published extensively and has been invited to present her work internationally to a variety of audiences including industry, government and academic. She has led interdisciplinary value chain research projects in Asia, Australia, North America, the Pacific Islands and South Africa exploring opportunities for agricultural smallholder households in producing high value (horticulture, dairy, beef) food products and adopting new technology to gain access to modern food value chains. Part of this work includes estimating consumer demand for specific credence (quality, safety and health) attributes in food and determining efficient governance systems to verify related attributes. She has also studied the impact of urbanization, modern retail transformation and development programs on food consumption patterns, diet quality and longer-run health and livelihood implications in Indonesia and Fiji.

Wendy received her B.S. in Animal Science (1996) and M.S. in Economics (1998) from South Dakota State University and her PhD in Agricultural Economics (2001) from the University of Nebraska-Lincoln. Prior to joining the University of Adelaide in 2006, Wendy was an Assistant and Associate Professor from 2001-2007 in the Department of Agricultural and Resource Economics at Colorado State University in the USA. She was raised on a beef cattle farm, which is still owned and operated by her family in South Dakota USA.