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Jo is Professor and Director of the Centre for Institutions and Economic Performance at the University of Leuven, where he also founded and directed the Research Group on Food Policy, Transition and Development. He is Senior Research Fellow at the Centre for European Policy Studies in Brussels. He was Lead Economist at the World Bank (2003-04), Economic Advisor at the European Commission (1998-01); and Visiting Professor at Cornell University, the University of Nitra, the University of Namur, the Mediterranean Agronomic Institute and a regular lecturer at Wageningen University.

The breadth and depth of Jo's work is truly exceptional. He published on political economy, transition, policy, trade, European integration, rural markets, institutional change, supply chains, rural poverty, migration, the role of the media.

He published a large number papers in long list of highly ranked journals. This not only included 8 papers in the ERAE and nearly the same number in the AJAE but also papers in the Journal of Economic Literature, Economic Theory and many others.

For his paper with Scott Rozelle in the Journal of Economic Literature ('The Success and Failure of Reforms: Insights from the Transition of Agriculture') he received the Quality of Research Discovery Award for 2004 from the American Association of Agricultural Economists.

