Carl K. Eicher

MSU Distinguished Faculty Emeritus
(1930 – 2014)

Michigan State University's Food Security Group is sad to announce the passing of Professor Carl K. Eicher on July 5, 2014. Below we share with you information about his long and distinguished career, highlighting his contributions to African agricultural development, food security policy and human capacity building.

A renowned pioneer in his field and an enduring contributor, Carl K. Eicher was University Distinguished Professor Emeritus in the Department of Agricultural, Food, and Resource Economics at Michigan State University. His career at MSU started in 1961 following his Ph.D. studies at Harvard and was devoted to educating students, building institutions and helping develop applied agricultural research capacity throughout Sub-Saharan Africa. He served as Visiting Professor at the University of Nigeria (1963-66), Stanford University (1968) and the University of Zimbabwe (1983-87).

In 1963, he helped establish the Economic Development Institute at the University of Nigeria and subsequently served as the Director of the Institute from 1964 to 1966. He received the Foreign Francqui Prize, University of Leuven, Belgium in 1986 and he was awarded an Honorary Doctor of Science Degree by the University of Zimbabwe in 1998.

After retirement, his dedication to African development persisted through his work with the United Nations Food and Agriculture Organization, the World Bank, the Kellogg Foundation, the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation and African organizations such the Forum for Agricultural Research in Africa (FARA) and the New Partnership for Africa’s Development (NEPAD).

Carl K. Eicher obituary


Carl K. Eicher’s MSU Distinguished Faculty Emeritus Profile

MSU and related publication series which Professor Eicher helped develop over his career (note some downloads from the links below may be slow due to the size of the scanned documents)

- MSU Rural Development Papers. 1978-1980
- MSU International Development Papers. 1982 - Current
- MSU International Development Working Papers. 1982- Current