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David Freshwater is the H. B. Price Professor of Agricultural Policy at the University of Kentucky, He is a long-term consultant to the OECD, and in 2009 was Head of the Rural Policy Programme. His main research areas are rural and agricultural policy in North America and Europe. Currently, he is focusing on factors that influence economic progress in rural areas, including innovation, access to finance and workforce development. Prior to joining the University of Kentucky he was a senior economist on the Staff of the Joint Economic Committee of the U.S. Congress, and before that a member of the professional staff of the U.S. Senate Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition and Forestry.