

## Editorial

The journal *Economia agro-alimentare/Food Economy* starts its third decade of publication. Its mission is to serve as an international forum for the discussion and analysis of sectoral and interdisciplinary socio-economic, political, legal and technical issues, related to agricultural and food systems. The journal is designed to address an audience of academic researchers, educators, and business professionals, by publishing both theoretical and empirical research relating to the food economy. Research topics focusing on agriculture, food, natural resources, safety, nutrition and health, including all processes and infrastructure involved in providing food to populations are welcome. The journal's scope includes the processes, inputs and outputs involved in consumption and disposal of food and food-related items. Analyses also include social, political, economic and environmental contexts and human resource challenges.

The published contributions are addressed to an international audience of researchers, practitioners, and policy makers, and they may consider local, national, or global scales. *Economia agro-alimentare/Food Economy* also solicits literature reviews, as well as notes, commentaries, and critiques that may serve as a guide for improved theory and research as well as contributions that advance education.

After 6 years, the journal *Economia agro-alimentare/Food Economy* has undertaken a full review of the membership of its Editorial Board. Gervasio Antonelli, Annalisa De Boni, and Concetta Nazzaro leave the Board with our appreciation and gratitude for the hard work and perseverance. We are very grateful to the former board members, who have served the journal with passion and competence, managing the journal in hard times and succeeding in keeping high standards in the articles published.

The new Editorial Board has been expanded to the Editor-in-Chief and six Associate Editors and it shows two remarkable features: it increased the involvement of female scholars, and it adds two members from non-

Italian institutions. The former is a confirmation of the commitment towards compliance with ethical standards, the latter is the evidence of the efforts made to broaden the international reach of our journal. The new Editor-in-Chief was part of the previous Editorial Board and is committed in continuing the job with the same passion and dedication. The new Editorial Board as a whole thanks the SIEA Presidential Board for putting trust on us and we all share the proud of being part of this team and the awareness that our commitment to achieve the goals set when we were appointed is important for SIEA and for the community of academics and scholars who are interested in the food economy.

In this framework, in accordance with the SIEA presidential board, also a new Scientific Advisory Board has been appointed.

One of the policies promoted by the journal *Economia agro-alimentare/ Food Economy* has been the involvement in the editorial process of many international scholars from the fields of agricultural and applied economics, agri-food marketing, behavioural sciences, food policy and others on our Scientific Advisory Board (SAB) and every year some of the members of the SAB are substituted.

We express our warmest appreciation to those SAB members who have served till last year and now leave the Board. Despite their busy schedules, they have served in the last years helping to improve the quality of articles published in our journal and consequently the reputation of the journal itself. A diverse and qualified SAB is crucial in facilitating the Editors' efforts to maintain high quality standards in the articles we publish, and we are extremely grateful for the invaluable work of our SAB in contributing both to our peer-review system and to the development of the Journal.

We are delighted as well to welcome the new SAB team for the current year. This year, the SAB was renewed to a higher rate than usual, also as a consequence of the renewal of the Editorial Board and the quest for a higher share of international scholars involved. The new SAB includes 13 scholars from Italy and 27 scholars from other countries from around the globe. They represent many prominent academic institutions all over the world. A full list of the Editorial Board members can be found on the inside cover of the Journal as well as on the new website, at the address [www.economiaagroalimentare.it](http://www.economiaagroalimentare.it).

The newly appointed SAB will continue to enhance the reputation of our journal by bringing the Board's varied experience across the breadth of disciplines related to the food economy. They will help us to maintain the rigour of the review process and guarantee we keep complying with the highest publishing standards. The Editor-in-Chief and the Editorial Board look forward to working with our new Scientific Advisory Board, relying upon their expertise and commitment.

This issue is the first entirely managed by the editorial board appointed by SIEA in July 2016.

We propose seven articles that evidence the wide-ranging coverage of topics dealing with important issues in the agri-food system.

Subjects addressed include:

- labour policies in agriculture;
- infrastructure and international trade;
- wine policies and global trade;
- social initiatives like food assistance and day care for elderly;
- value chains and value creation;
- history of food advertising.

Vera Bitsch, Stefan Mair, Marta M. Borucinska, Christiane A. Schettler propose the article “Introduction of a Nationwide Minimum Wage: Challenges to Agribusinesses in Germany” aimed at exploring the effects of introduction of minimum wage for seasonal work in agribusiness in the German labour regulations. They consider the perspectives of both employers and seasonal workers, using qualitative methods. They highlight concerns on both sides, the former being concerned for the administrative burden even more than for the anticipated increase of cost; the latter showing concern for the ceiling limit to working hours, which may hamper their ability to accumulate a satisfactory salary in the timespan of a seasonal employment.

Richard Pomfret, in his paper “Improved Infrastructure and Agricultural Exports from Central Asia” offers an evidence from the Kyrgyz Republic of new trade items, including exports of crops such as beans. An implication is that infrastructure improvement that lowers trade costs will promote diversification of agricultural exports and growth models favouring the poor. The Author provides data on the high trade costs in Central Asia based on the Corridor Performance Measurement and Monitoring program and argues that the constraints on agricultural exports are potentially changing, as both the hard and soft infrastructure of international trade are improving in Central Asia.

Paola Corsinovi and Davide Gaeta, “European wine policies and their consequences on the global wine trade” analyse the evolution of EU wine policies considering three main phases (from 1970 to 2015) that have characterised the EU’s aims and strategies during the years of the reforms. The first phase, called “price and income support”, has followed the objective of market equilibrium by reducing surplus wine quantities and guaranteeing the income stability of producers; the second is identified as the “quality phase” and the last one is focusing on the “competitiveness” of quality wines. The authors examine the budget expenditures of each phase and the market response in the domestic and international scenario.

Sabrina Arcuri, Gianluca Brunori, and Francesca Galli, in their contribution “Insights on the role of private and public actors in food

assistance provision: a literature review for High Income Countries” review the literature of the current active academic debate on food assistance initiatives. The aim of the paper is to provide public decision makers with an overview of the various instruments intended as food assistance in High Income Countries. In particular the Authors highlight the role of the state and non-state actors such as charitable organizations, market and community based initiatives in addressing food poverty. They show a variety of ways of intervention and their effectiveness in relation to resources used and actors’ engagement.

Julia Anna Jungmair and Oliver Meixner in their contribution “Green Care day care for elderly on Austrian farms” investigate the green care model in the healthcare sector and provide recommendations for using the version of green care day care for the elderly applied in the Netherlands as a basis for implementation in other European countries. The authors’ main findings confirm that the model analyzed could be a possible approach to face structural and financial challenges of agricultural sector, even though cooperation between federal states, agricultural chambers, and social organizations is essential for the efficient functioning of the model proposed.

Bodo E. Steiner in his paper “Value creation and organizational design issues in agribusiness value-chains: Insights from developed and developing economies” conducts a literature review on value chain in agribusiness by using a phenomenon-driven, problem-oriented research approach. The analyses concentrates both on well-established and emerging value chains. Results show that vertical asymmetric distribution of gains, outdated grading systems, the lack of use of residual claimancy, the uneven distribution of information and market power, and a lack of trust among industry participants are important factors affecting the effective coordination of food value chains. From the analysis conducted different managerial and policy implications can be drawn. First, formal and informal institutions required for value creation can act as complements within food value chains. Second, in the presence of systemic risks, policymakers can play an important role in developing formal governance mechanisms.

In the section “Notes & Documents” Francesco Casadei presents an interesting note with the title ““Volete la salute?”. Bevande e alimenti per il benessere nelle campagne pubblicitarie italiane tra XIX e XX secolo” [“Do you want your health?”. Functional foods and beverages in Italian advertising campaigns between 19th and 20th century”]. He uses the historical method to review one century of communications regarding functional foods and the approaches used by food companies to suggest consumers how to take care of their well-being using food and dietary supplements.

The authors are from different countries, namely Australia, Austria, Finland, Germany, Italy and the scope of their analysis spans from local to

international. All the papers but one are published in English, in accordance with the journal's goal to address mainly an international audience. This Editorial Board strongly encourages authors to contribute allowing the journal to have a global reach.

We also encourage our authors and readers to consider submitting a special issue proposal to be published in *Economia agro-alimentare/Food Economy*. We strive to continue to set the standard for emerging research issues for years to come and appreciate the support of our community of authors and readers.

The Editor-in-Chief

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