

*7th Conference of the Italian Association of Agricultural and Applied Economics (AIEAA)
14-15 June 2018; Conegliano (TV), Italy*

Evidence-based policies to face new challenges for agri-food systems

Call for Papers

The European agri-food systems are facing relevant and new challenges. This call for policy intervention that should be designed to meet these challenges, which include the following:

- increasing globalization and international competition in agri-food markets;
- innovations and structural changes in agri-food markets;
- climate change and reduced availability of natural resources.

Increasing international competition means that the European farm sector and agri-food industry is under pressure and in need of relevant structural and organisational changes. Furthermore, the structural changes observed in agri-food markets have caused increasingly volatile prices, market concentration and other important changes (e.g. an increase in the use of contractual agreements reducing farmers' freedom of action). The last challenge affects the levels and stability of production, and exacerbates the competition for natural resources between different sectors. These challenges indicate that there is a need for the scientific community to play a renewed role in supporting policy design and implementation. This renewed role should focus on:

- developing a more proactive dialogue between the scientific community and policy makers;
- developing and using new methods and tools for policy analysis and evaluation;
- increasing the focus of analysis on both sustainability and resilience of agri-food systems;
- considering the rapidly changing structure of the agri-food value-chain and markets.

The increased availability of data and a growing public focus on policy impact demand evidence-based policymaking. This would make it possible to achieve two goals: firstly, to use what we already know from program evaluation in order to make policy decisions, and secondly, to accumulate further knowledge in order to better inform future decisions. However, this approach implies rigorous research findings, data, and analytics, requiring a proactive dialogue between the scientific community and policy makers that is far from being fully developed.

These challenges call for the exploration of new research areas and development of new analytical tools that can contribute to participative, reliable and comprehensive policy analysis.

The transition towards a sustainable and resilient agri-food system could provide a sufficient quantity of private and public goods to improve human well-being. While the concepts of sustainability and resilience are not new in the scientific literature, their interactions are a promising area of research. This challenge requires a renewed role for policy in enhancing the

adaptive capacities of agri-food systems and in reducing their sensitivity and exposure to natural and market hazards.

Several factors are driving rapid changes in the structure of the agri-food value-chain and markets. These include two important trends: increased concentration at the various stages of the food industry, and the growing consumer demand for quality, taste, appearance, and ethical values of food products. These changes require the development of new areas of policy intervention, supported by new research results.

AIEAA welcomes the submission of contributions on the topics above. However, the submission of contributions on other agricultural and applied economics topics is encouraged as well.

Submissions

Contribution proposals should be submitted in English through the conference website at www.aieaa.org. There are three types of contributions: contributed papers, organized sessions, and posters.

Contributed papers

Participants intending to present a paper are requested to submit an extended abstract (minimum 1000 words; maximum 1500 words) before **February 15**, 2018. Abstracts should include:

- a. Introduction to the topic
- b. Description of data and research methodology
- c. Discussion of theoretical and/or empirical results
- d. Emphasis on the paper's potential for generating discussion during the conference
- e. A list of few essential references.

All submitted abstracts will be subject to a blind peer review process. Authors will be notified of paper acceptance by **March 20**, 2018.

The full version of accepted papers should be submitted by **May 25**, 2018.

Upon Authors' authorization, the abstracts of accepted papers will be made available on the conference website, and the full text will be posted on *AgEcon Search*.

A selection of accepted papers will be considered for publication in a special issue of *Bio-based and Applied Economics*, after going through the journal's standard review process. The deadline for the submissions will be **June 29**, 2018.

Organized sessions

Participants are invited to propose organized sessions primarily, but not exclusively, on topics relevant to the conference themes. Proposals (max 2,000 words) should include the name of the organizer, the session title, the name of contributors, and the title and abstract of each paper. It is suggested that proposed sessions include no more than four papers. Proposals should be submitted by **February 15**, 2018. Organized session proposals will be subject to a peer review process. Authors will be notified of acceptance by **March 20**, 2018.

Posters

AIEAA welcomes the submission of posters. Accepted posters will be presented and discussed in dedicated sessions. Participants should submit an abstract (max 500 words) by **February 15, 2018**. Poster proposals will be subject to a blind peer review process. Authors will be notified of poster acceptance by **March 20, 2018**.

Presenting author's registration

Authors presenting papers, posters, or organized sessions must register for the conference before **May 31, 2018** (failing that the paper/session/poster will be withdrawn from the conference program).

Important deadlines

Abstract submission by authors: **February 15, 2018**

Notification of acceptance to authors: **March 20, 2018**

Full paper/poster submission: **May 25, 2018**

Authors' registration deadline: **May 31, 2018**.

Keynote speakers

Pierluigi Londero (European Commission, Belgium)

Robert Finger (ETH Zurich, Switzerland)

Andrea Cattaneo (FAO, Italy)

Zohra Bouamra-Mechemache (GREMAQ-INRA, France)

Conference Schedule

The pre-conference will be held on June 14, 2018 in the morning.

The Seventh AIEAA Conference will start at 1.30 PM on Thursday, June 14, 2018 and will end by 5.00 PM on Friday June 15, 2018.

Program Committee

Simone Severini (Università della Tuscia, Italy, Chair)

Fabio Bartolini (Università di Pisa, Italy)

Silvia Coderoni (Università Politecnica delle Marche, Italy)

Giacomo Giannoccaro (Università di Bari "Aldo Moro", Italy)

Luciano Gutierrez (Università di Sassari, Italy)

Silvia Novelli (Università di Torino, Italy)

Andrea Povellato (CREA - Centro di ricerca Politiche e Bioeconomia, Italy)

Meri Raggi (Università di Bologna, Italy)

Mara Thiene (Università di Padova, Italy)

Early Registration fees (before April 30)

Regular fee: 200€ (150€ if already member in 2018)

Reduced fee (Ph.D. students, Postdoc): 100€ (80€ if already member in 2018)

Donor member fee: 250€ (150 € if already member in 2018)

Registration fees include the conference lunches, the coffee breaks and the social dinner.

Late Registration fees (after April 30)

Regular fee: 250€ (200€ if already member in 2018)

Reduced fee (Ph.D. students, Postdoc): 150€ (130€ if already member in 2018)

Donor member fee: 300€ (200€ if already member in 2018)

Registration fees include the conference lunches, the coffee breaks and the social dinner.

Registration Procedure

Online registration will be possible on the conference website

(www.aieaa.org/aieaaconference2018).

Information and contacts

For more updated information and contacts, please refer to the conference website at

www.aieaa.org or email aieaa2018.tesaf@unipd.it