

6th Conference of the Italian Association of Agricultural and Applied Economics (AIEAA)
June 15-16, 2017; Piacenza, Italy

Economics and Politics of Migration: Implications for Agriculture and Food

Call for Papers

Two key factors have recently contributed to place migration issues at the centre of the economic and political agenda. Firstly, the weaker economic prospects and the cuts in public spending due to the recession have increasingly contributed to make immigrants be perceived as *competitors* in the labour market and in the welfare state, rather than as a *resource*. Secondly, the refugee crisis, with the number of migrants seeking for asylum in Europe reaching a level not experienced since the mid-1990s, creates alarming tensions and un-coordinated reactions by the EU countries, revealing the fragility of EU institutions.

What are the implications of this massive flow of migrants for the agricultural and food sector and, more in general, for rural areas both in the origin and destination countries?

In the last decades, agriculture and rural areas have represented the main source of job opportunities for international migrants. Evidence of the key role played by migrant workers in keeping the sector competitive and resilient to the changes is solid. In Italy, for example, more than 25% of the agricultural labour force and nearly 70% of the seasonal labour force are represented by migrants. Similar patterns can be detected in other EU countries, such as Spain, France and Greece, as well as in the US.

Yet, although migrant labour force has become a structural element of the agricultural sector in several developed countries, it has also occurred at growing and unsustainable social costs. The fact that agriculture often represents the first occupational opportunity for migrants has brought about at the same time problems of immigrants' exploitation, illegal hiring and other social costs in many rural areas. In Italy for example, more than 30% of the total non-EU migrant workers are irregular, with a salary significantly below the average, extremely limited worker rights and without any kind of social protection.

The interaction between migration and poverty - both at origin and destination - is still among the least studied topics in agricultural economics. This is surprising if one considers that migrants are coming mainly from rural areas where poverty is highly concentrated. Moreover, how the migration process affects the socio-economic contexts in the countries of origin is important not only from a social welfare point of view. The increasing market integration and the role of remittance may create externalities and economic growth in the rural areas (for example, by affecting food production, consumption and the rural demand for manufactured goods); as a consequence, the derived economic welfare is expected to influence future migration processes. Similarly, in destination countries, immigrants are contributing to change consumption patterns as well as food habits, by opening shops, restaurants and trade activities.

Economic research on migration has gone well beyond the analysis of the impact of migrants on natives' wages and employment. Economists have started to analyse the interaction between immigrants and natives, their degree of substitution and/or complementarities, and how native workers, firms and local economies react and adjust to labour supply shocks. Furthermore, there is a wide literature on the effects of migration on education, health and crime, as well as on the political effects of immigrants at origin and destination.

The relevance of these topics motivates the need to provide high quality studies also incorporating current knowledge from the economic literature to analyse the economics and politics of migration in rural areas. In this perspective, the sixth AIEAA Conference aims at providing a scientific contribution to these issues by expanding the knowledge base on the fundamental effects of migration, and by promoting a critical debate on the underlying theoretical and methodological issues and policy implications.

Specific issues to be addressed include:

- The effect of migrations on the agricultural labour market;
- The contribution of foreign workers to agriculture productivity growth;
- The effect of migration in rural areas;
- Farms' adjustment to local labour supply shocks;
- Migration and poverty condition in the countries of origin;
- Migration and the changing patterns of food consumption;
- Migration, climate change and natural disasters;
- The trade effect of international migrations;
- The political economy of migration policy;
- The political outcomes of international migrations;
- Migration and crime in rural areas.
- Migration, education and health

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, 2017**. 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 17, 2017**.

The full version of accepted papers should be submitted by **May 26, 2017**.

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 submission will be **June 30, 2017**.

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, 2017**. Organized session proposals will be subject to a peer review process. Authors will be notified of acceptance by **March 17, 2017**.

Posters

AIEEA 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, 2017. Poster proposals will be subject to a blind peer review process. Authors will be notified of poster acceptance by **March 17, 2017**.

Presenting author's registration

Authors presenting papers, posters, or organized sessions must register for the conference before **May 31, 2017** (failing that the paper/session/poster will be withdrawn from the conference program).

Important deadlines

Abstract submission by authors: **February 15, 2017**

Notification of acceptance to authors: **March 17, 2017**

Full paper/poster submission: **May 26, 2017**

Authors' registration deadline: **May 31, 2017**

Keynote speakers

Alan De Brauw (IFPRI, USA)

Anna Maria Mayda (Georgetown University, USA)

Giuseppe De Arcangelis (University La Sapienza, Italy)

Giorgio Osti (University of Trieste, Italy)

Conference Schedule

The pre-conference will be held on June 15, 2017 in the morning.

The Sixth AIEAA Conference will start at 1.30 PM on Thursday, June 15, 2017 and will end by 6.00 PM on Friday June 16, 2017.

Program Committee

Alessandro Olper (Università degli Studi di Milano, Italy, Chair)
Elena Castellari (Università Cattolica del Sacro Cuore di Piacenza, Italy)
Maria Bonaventura Forleo (Università degli Studi del Molise, Italy)
Roberto Henke (Consiglio per la Ricerca in Agricoltura, Italy)
Valentina Materia (Wageningen University, The Netherlands)
Davide Pettenella, (Università degli Studi di Padova, Italy)
Roberta Raffaelli (Università degli Studi di Trento, Italy)
Luca Salvatici (Università degli Studi Roma Tre, Italy)
Fabio Santeramo (Università di Foggia, Italy)

Early Registration fees (before April 30)

Regular fee: 150 € (100 € if already member in 2017)
Reduced fee (Ph.D. students, Postdoc): 50 € (30 € if already member in 2017)
Donor member fee: 200 € (100 € if already member in 2017)
Registration fees include the conference lunches, the coffee breaks and the social dinner.

Late Registration fees (after April 30)

Regular fee: 200 € (150 € if already member in 2017)
Reduced fee (Ph.D. students, Postdoc): 70 € (50 € if already member in 2017)
Donor member fee: 250 € (150 € if already member in 2017)

Registration Procedure

Online registration will be possible on the conference website.

Information and contacts

For more updated information and contacts, please refer to the conference website at www.aieaa.org or email aieaa2017@unicatt.it