

*15<sup>th</sup> Conference of the Italian Association of Agricultural and Applied Economics (AIEAA)*

## **Global agri-food value chains in a changing geopolitical order: towards new equilibria?**

*10-12 June 2026*

*Mercatorum University*

*Rome, Italy*

### **Call for Papers**

Global agri-food systems are undergoing profound and overlapping transformations. Shifting alliances, regional conflicts, great-power competition, and disruptions such as the US-China trade war, Brexit, the Covid-19 pandemic, increased energy insecurity, and weakened multilateralism are constantly redesigning international economic relations. Recent crises, including the war in Ukraine, tensions in the Indo-Pacific, and shifts in US foreign policy, have further fragmented the global order, prompting governments and firms to reassess how production networks are organized.

Trade has increasingly become an instrument of geopolitical strategy: flows of goods and capital are now shaped as much by national security and political alignment as by efficiency.

Geopolitical realignments, climate change, rising input and energy costs, and export restrictions have increased market volatility and exposed structural vulnerabilities along food supply chains. Recent crises, including the war-induced collapse of Black Sea export routes and the emergence of new European Solidarity Lanes, have demonstrated how disruptions propagate through trade networks and reshape global welfare, food security, and agricultural markets. These shocks highlight how deeply interlinked food systems have become, and how conflict, sanctions, trade disputes, and shifts in major power strategies can reverberate across interconnected markets. Geopolitical shocks do not affect food systems uniformly: their impacts are transmitted through complex intersectoral and regional linkages. For instance, the EU's policy response to the Russian invasion of Ukraine, via sanctions, trade restrictions, and emergency market measures, has generated significant direct and indirect effects across Italian agri-food sectors, with outcomes varying widely by region, supply-chain position, and degree of import dependence.

These dynamics intersect with the accelerating requirements for sustainability and climate change mitigation. The EU and several global partners are developing new regulatory frameworks, ranging from carbon farming to ESG reporting, from climate-related disclosures to value-chain-wide emissions accounting rules. For firms, farmers, and consumers, these evolving requirements reshape incentives, alter competitive landscapes, demand new investments in traceability, compliance, and technological upgrading, and may affect decision-making processes.

In this context, the 15th AIEAA Annual Conference, whose central theme is “Global agri-food value chains in a changing geopolitical order: towards new equilibria?”, invites contributions offering theoretical, empirical, and policy insights on how agri-food value chains are adapting, or should adapt, to these global shocks.

We welcome theoretical, empirical, and policy-oriented contributions, with a primary - though not exclusive - focus on the following sub-themes:

- Geopolitics, trade, trade policy, and the restructuring of agri-food systems
- Sustainability standards, certification, and power asymmetries in agri-food GVC governance
- Innovation, digitalization, and new technologies shaping agri-food systems
- Climate change, natural resource constraints, and long-term transition of agriculture
- Equity, development, and distributional implications of changing agri-food systems structures
- Small and family farming in a changing global agri-food system
- Rural development and food systems structural dynamics
- Coherence and trade-offs among economic, social, and environmental sustainability in the agri-food system
- Consumer behavior and sustainability of agri-food systems
- Adoption, diffusion and policy for innovation in the agri-food systems
- Policies and tools to support the resilience of agri-food systems

AIEAA welcomes contributions on the topics above. However, contributions on other agricultural and applied economics topics are also encouraged.

## Submissions

Contribution proposals should be submitted in English through the Conference management platform, ConfTool, which is available on the Conference page of the AIEAA website ([www.aieaa.org](http://www.aieaa.org)).

There are three types of contributions: Contributed papers, Organized and Panel sessions, and Pitches. The submission must be made using the provided templates.

### *Contributed paper*

Participants intending to present a contributed paper are requested to submit an extended abstract (minimum 1,500 words; maximum 2,000 words) by **February 15<sup>th</sup>, 2026**. Abstracts should include the following elements:

- a) An introduction to the topic and the objectives of the paper
- b) A description of the data and research methodology
- c) A discussion of the expected theoretical and/or empirical results
- d) The main conclusions, with particular emphasis on the paper's potential to stimulate discussion during the conference
- e) A list of a limited number of essential references

All submitted abstracts will be subject to a blind peer review process. Authors will be notified of paper acceptance by **April 15<sup>th</sup>, 2026**.

The final version of accepted contributions (either in the form of a full paper or a revised long abstract) should be submitted by **May 15<sup>th</sup>, 2026**.

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.

### *Organized sessions and Panel sessions*

Participants are invited to propose organized sessions and panel sessions, primarily, but not exclusively, focused on topics relevant to the Conference themes.

Organized sessions consist of 4 to 5 papers addressing a common topic. For each paper, the proposal must include a summary of 300–500 words outlining the introduction, methodology, and main results.

Panel sessions consist of 4 to 5 experts discussing a specific topic. For each panelist, a short contribution of 200–400 words must be submitted.

All proposals must be submitted by **February 15, 2026**, and will be subject to peer review. Authors will be notified of acceptance by **April 15, 2026**.

### *Pitches*

AIEAA welcomes the submission of pitches, defined as short presentations lasting up to 5 minutes and supported by a maximum of 3 slides. Accepted pitches will be presented and discussed in parallel sessions. Participants should submit an abstract (max 500 words) by **February 15<sup>th</sup>, 2026**. Pitch proposals will be subject to a blind peer review process, and authors will be notified of acceptance by **April 15<sup>th</sup>, 2026**.

## **Young Researchers' Day**

AIEAA is pleased to inform you that the fourth Young Researchers' Day will also be hosted in Rome on the afternoon of June 10<sup>th</sup>, 2026.

This will be followed by the 15th AIEAA Conference on 11-12 June.

The purpose of the 2026 Young Researchers' Day is to address current research trends in applied and agricultural economics. The main objective is to raise our awareness of the sustainable transition of the agri-food systems, their challenges and opportunities.

Young researchers intending to participate are requested to register through the Conference management platform, ConfTool, available from the Conference page on the AIEAA website ([www.aieaa.org](http://www.aieaa.org)).

Participants must register for the Conference before May 15<sup>th</sup>, 2026.

Registration is available only to active AIEAA members for 2026.

## **Practical information**

**Registration requirement for presenting authors:** Authors presenting papers, pitches, organized or panel sessions must register for the Conference before **May 15<sup>th</sup>, 2026** (otherwise, the papers/sessions/pitches will be withdrawn from the Conference programme).

## **Ornella Maietta Best Paper Award**

The best paper award 2026, entitled to Ornella Maietta, will be selected among full papers accepted for presentation at the AIEAA 2026 Conference. The requirements for consideration for the best paper award are: a) the first author and presenter is under 40 years of age; b) the full paper is uploaded by **May 15<sup>th</sup>, 2026**.

## **Important deadlines**

Abstract submission by authors: **February 15<sup>th</sup>, 2026**

Organized session/pitches submission: **February 15<sup>th</sup>, 2026**

Notification of acceptance to abstract authors: **April 15<sup>th</sup>, 2026**

Notification of acceptance to session/pitches authors: **April 15<sup>th</sup>, 2026**

Final contributions submission: **May 15<sup>th</sup>, 2026**

Authors' registration deadline: **May 15<sup>th</sup>, 2026**

### **Keynote speakers**

Johan Swinnen (Director General, IFPRI - Washington)

Guglielmo Zappalà (Environmental Fellow - Harvard University)

### **Plenary panel session**

“New Equilibria in Agri-food Systems: CAP Evolution, Value Chain Strategies, and Ukraine’s Resilience Under Conflict”. Participants: Alan Matthews (Trinity College - Dublin), Mariia Bogonos (School of Economics - Kyiv), Enrico Marvasi (Roma Tre University - Rome)

### **Event in memory of Luca Salvatici**

On Monday, 10 June, an event in memory of Luca Salvatici will be held, during which some of Luca’s friends and colleagues will present work related to his research areas. Detailed information will be communicated at a later stage.

### **Conference schedule**

Wednesday, June 10: Morning	Event in memory of Luca Salvatici.
Wednesday, June 10: Afternoon	AIEAA- Young Researchers Day 2026
Wednesday, June 10: Afternoon	AIEAA pre-Conference
Thursday, June 11: All day	15th AIEAA Conference
Friday, June 12: All day	

### **Programme Committee**

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### **Registration Fees**

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

#### **Early Registration (before May 15<sup>th</sup>, 2026)**

Regular fee: 310€ (230€ if already AIEAA member in 2026)

Reduced fee (Ph.D. students, Postdoc): 180€ (140€ if already AIEAA member in 2026)

#### **Late Registration (after May 15<sup>th</sup>)**

Regular fee: 390€ (310€ if already AIEAA member in 2026)

Reduced fee (Ph.D. students, Postdoc): 260€ (220€ if already AIEAA member in 2026)

### **Information and contacts**

For updated information and contacts, please refer to the Conference page on the AIEAA website ([www.aieaa.org](http://www.aieaa.org)) or email [confaieaa2026@gmail.com](mailto:confaieaa2026@gmail.com)