



SOCIETÀ ITALIANA DI ECONOMIA AGRARIA

LII Annual Conference

“The value of food: internationalization, competition and local development in agro-food systems”

Rome - Viterbo, September 17th -19th, 2015

FIRST CALL FOR PAPERS

Agro-food systems are at the center of relevant changes with important economic, social and environmental implications. This is part of an adjustment process which is involving the agriculture sector: the dynamics of agricultural markets in the last decade have been characterized by an increasing global instability which has led to greater international competition, higher volatility of international commodity markets and raised concentration at retailer’s level, with an increased asymmetry in market power distribution and conflicts among stakeholders.

These dynamics have recently been intensified due to various factors such as climatic change, economic crisis, fluctuations in energy markets and world trade relations that have worsened the macroeconomics framework. At the same time, demand for food and agricultural products has substantially changed, becoming more complex and resulting from “aware and conscientious” consumption patterns that add value to characteristics such as food quality and safety, place of origin, respect for the environment and ethical and social standards, food waste reduction.

Changes have occurred to agricultural policies as well. With reference to EU, attention has to be paid to the reform process which has involved the Common Agricultural Political (CAP) and has promoted the progressive dismantling of price support system in favor of more market-oriented agricultural production (*decoupling*). The 2013 Reform has completed such process with a definitive switch to a full decoupled support. Core instruments of the new CAP, namely supply concentration and organization (e.g. Producers’ Organizations, interprofessional agreements, and contractualization), are aimed at supporting and stabilizing farm-incomes, in compliance with tighter competition rules.

Such changes in agricultural markets and policies can directly influence the functioning mechanisms of the agro-food systems, the relations among stakeholders in the agro-food supply chains and their development strategies, e.g. food quality improvement, product differentiation, vertical coordination among the value-chain and supply control, enforcement of competition rules.

The LII SIDEA Annual Conference in (Rome-Viterbo) will offer the opportunity for a scientific debate on the key issues which will possibly drive the evolution of food supply-chains and their functioning mechanisms. The objective of the Conference is to discuss scientific contributions of agricultural economists to the development of emerging organizational models in the global agro-food systems.

The Conference is structured around two plenary sessions and three parallel sessions. This year, and for the first time, the first Conference plenary session will be jointly organized with FAO and will be held at FAO Headquarters in Rome. The session, entitled “*Strategies and actors of global agricultural and food policies*”, will have a strong orientation towards international themes. It will be characterized by distinguished contributions and will be aimed at promoting the dialogue between scholars, policy makers and international organizations with the objective to build innovative models for the governance of global agro-food systems.

The parallel sessions will focus on the following themes:

1. Supply concentration and vertical integration in food supply chain: tools and policies

- Cooperation dynamics;
- Role of Producers Organizations in different agro-food supply chains;
- Stakeholders’ role in the development of agro-food supply chains;
- Role of inter-professional organizations in market regulation;
- Contractual relations in agro-food supply chains.

2. Trade regulation and international market organization

- Prospects and *governance* of agro-food markets in the global scenario;
- Food security and market internationalization;
- Instability and price volatility in international markets;
- International trade and TTIP negotiation in the agro-food system;
- Quality of agriculture products in international trade;

3. Prices, competition and market power in the agro-food system

- Competition rules, supply concentration and inter-professional agreements;
- Market power distribution among industry, retailers and *countervailing actors*;
- Price transmission mechanisms along agro-food supply chains;
- Multinationals and firm strategies among food processors and retailers;
- Methods and models for detecting market power along food supply chains.

4. Quality, environment and local development

- New forms of marketing and local markets;
- Value creation and sharing in local food chains;
- Rules of origin and local development;
- Climate change and sustainable management of natural resources;
- Agroforestry systems and ecosystem services.

5. Policies for agricultural markets

- New tools for markets organization in the CAP 2014-2020;
- Organization and integration instruments for food supply chains in national and regional policies;
- Evaluation and effects of policies for market regulation;
- Relation between policies for market competition and CAP;
- Role of rural development policies in market regulation.

6. Consumption and nutrition dynamics

- New patterns of food consumption;
- Food safety and quality in consumers' perception;
- Nutritional patterns and food security;
- Efficiency of distribution, food waste and *last minute market*;
- Consumers in the new model of food distribution;
- Ethical and social responsibility in food production, distribution and consumption.

SIDEA welcomes the submission of contributions on the topics above. However, the themes reported represent a non-exhaustive list of the topics and the submission of contributions on all agricultural economics topics is encouraged as well.

CONFERENCE STRUCTURE

The Conference will be held over three days from September 17th (Thursday) to 19th (Saturday). The first day will feature a plenary session at FAO Headquarters in Rome on “*Strategies and Actors of Global Agricultural and Food Policies*”, organized jointly with FAO.

The second day (Friday) will be held at Tuscia University in Viterbo and includes: a plenary session on “*Coordination and Competition in Agro-Food Systems*”, three parallel sessions where the scientific contribution to the various topics will be presented and the Shareholders' Meeting.

On Saturday morning the traditional study tour will be held in rural areas of Northern Lazio.

Program (*draft*)

	Thursday September 17 th	Friday September 18 th	Saturday September 19 th
<i>Morning</i>	12.00 – 14.00 Registration of participants <i>Welcome lunch</i>	8.45 - 10.45 Parallel Session I 10.45 - 11.00 <i>Coffee break</i> 11.00 - 12.30 Second Plenary Session “Coordination and competition in agro-food systems” 12.30 - 13.30 SIDEA Shareholders’ Meeting 13.30 Buffet lunch	Study tour
<i>Afternoon</i>	14.00 – 17.00 First Plenary Session FAO- SIDEA “ <i>Strategies and Actors of Global Agricultural and Food Policies</i> ” 17.00 – 17.30 <i>Coffee break</i> 18.00 – 19.30 Transport to Viterbo	14.30 - 16.00 Parallel Session II 16.00 - 16.15 <i>Coffee break</i> 16.15 - 17.45 Parallel Session III 17.45 – 18.30 Workshop	15.00 Departure
<i>Evening</i>	20.00 Social dinner	20.00 Typical dinner	

CONTRIBUTION TO PARALLEL SESSIONS AND SELECTION PROCESS

Participants willing to submit a contribution to parallel sessions are requested to send an *extended abstract* (min 2 pages/1000 words) in English by **March 30th, 2015** via email to sidea2015@unitus.it. The extended abstract should include objectives, methodology, results and references (references will not be included in the word count). Title, author(s) and *corresponding author* should be included as well. All submitted abstracts will be subject to evaluation by the Conference Scientific Committee. Authors will receive notification of acceptance by **April 20th, 2015**.

PUBLICATION OF CONTRIBUTIONS

1. A *short paper* of the accepted abstracts (max 8 pages/4.000 words), to be written in English, should be submitted by June 29th and will be subject to a peer-review process for publication in Conference *Proceedings* and included in bibliographic databases (Web of Science and/or Scopus).
2. A selection of *short papers* will be submitted for publication in *Special Issues* of SIDEA’s Journals.

IMPORTANT DEADLINES

30 March: *extended abstract* submission by authors

20 April: notification of acceptance to authors

10 June: author's registration deadline

29 June: *short paper* submission by authors

30 July: notification of referees' comments on the *short papers*

30 September: notification of selected *papers* for publication in *Special Issues* of SIDEA's Journals

20 October: final *short paper* submission by authors

SCIENTIFIC COMMITTEE

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For more information, please see <http://www.sidea.org/Home.html> or send email to sidea2015@unitus.it

CONFERENCE LOCATION

FAO, Rome and Tuscia University, Viterbo