

## **Giovanni Anania Scholarship – Visiting at *University of California Davis***

Having been awarded the Giovanni Anania Scholarship, I had the privilege to spend the fall trimester of the academic year 2016/2017 at the University of California Davis (UC Davis), as a visitor in the Department of Agricultural and Resource Economics.

Among the several courses offered in the Department, I chose to attend those of *Applied Econometrics* by Professor Tim Beatty, *Economics of Agriculture* by Professor Julian Alston and *Supply and Demand of Agricultural Products* by Professors Alston and Beatty. The first one gave me the opportunity to strengthen my skills in Econometrics, fundamental to carry out my research. The last two allowed me to deepen my knowledge concerning the agricultural sector, looking both at the supply and at the demand side, investigating its dynamics linked to international trade and studying specific issues such as climate change, genetically modified organisms (GMOs) or wine economics, especially relevant in a region like California. Moreover, I had the possibility to audit the course of *International Trade* by Professor Robert Feenstra. Ever since I was a college student, I started learning about the theory of international trade on his books, therefore I feel honored and grateful for having had the possibility to expand and update my knowledge on the matter by participating to his own classes.

During my trimester at UC Davis I also had the chance to take part in several departmental seminars, organized weekly, and I had the opportunity to interact with many professors and researchers; I am grateful to each one of them for teaching me something and contributing to expanding my horizons. Undoubtedly, a central role was played by Professor Colin Carter, my tutor at UC Davis, who assisted me in choosing the courses to audit. He also gave me precious feedback about my research and always made sure that my stay at the University of California was proceeding at best. On several occasion I also had the opportunity to spend time with Professor Quirino Paris, admiring his knowledge, his experience and his kindness. Our talks are among the moments I treasure the most about my stay in Davis. Moreover, I would like to underline that Professor Giovanni Anania's memory is strong and vivid among all those who had the luck to meet him. Many people shared their anecdotes with me, always highlighting the Professor's great experience and intelligence, his enthusiasm and his cordiality.

Finally, as recipient of the Giovanni Anania's Scholarship, I had the opportunity to end my visit in the United States by participating to the *International Agricultural Trade Consortium* (IATRC) annual meeting, held in Phoenix, Arizona, from December 11<sup>th</sup> to December 13<sup>th</sup> 2016. After an intense first day, entirely focused on climate change, the program of the event was so rich and varied that it has been hard to choose which sessions to attend. Each presentation and every

person I had the chance to talk to taught me something, besides, in several cases, providing interesting insights regarding my research.

In conclusion, words cannot express the extraordinary impact that the three months spent in the United States had on my professional and personal growth. I am grateful to the Italian Association of Applied Agrarian Economics (*Associazione Italiana di Economia Agraria Applicata* – AIEAA), to the Manlio Rossi-Doria Centre of excellence for Economic and Social Research, to the International Agricultural Trade Research Consortium (IATRC), to the University of Calabria and to the University of California for awarding me with such opportunity.

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