

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

**The social sustainability of European agriculture facing old and new challenges.  
Issues, methods and policies**

**Call for Papers**

In the last years the concept of sustainability, encompassing its three environmental, economic, and social dimensions, has gained increasing attention in the scientific debate as well as in the broad society and in the political debate, especially at the EU level. However, so far speculations on the concepts and measures for environmental sustainability, and partly for its economic dimension, are, if not fully satisfactory, certainly more advanced than the state of the art of the reflections on what social sustainability precisely is, which aspects are included in it and how to measure them. Although current events increasingly drive our attention to the challenges and contradictions of ongoing social transformations and tensions, the topic still presents itself as extremely multifaceted, magmatic and largely elusive.

The agricultural sector has a primary role in the debate on social sustainability since the transformations linked to climate change, geopolitical crises, technological transformation and pandemic disruption have fully hit it in recent years. In addition, EU policies and especially the CAP are increasingly concerned by the direct and indirect impacts on society of the EU regulatory frameworks and of support policies. Even the longer-term dynamics in agriculture and some of its structural characteristics represent real challenges to its social sustainability. Just think to:

- ✓ the survival difficulties of family businesses in increasingly globalized markets and supply chains characterized by giant firms;
- ✓ the lack of generational turnover and the increasing demographic imbalances;
- ✓ fragile workers' and women's working conditions in agriculture and rural areas;
- ✓ the instability of the labor market and the widespread asymmetries between supply and demand (and in some cases its illegality). And, on the top of these, the complex migration issues and the management of EU and non-EU workers, whether seasonal or not;
- ✓ the depopulation and marginalization of some rural areas;
- ✓ the social implications of environmental degradation and climate change of which agriculture is both victim and responsible;
- ✓ the social impact of the healthiness of the agricultural environment and of the products that the sector delivers to citizens and consumers.

From the above, it is clear how the issue of social sustainability of agriculture has direct and indirect implications on the management of farms/firms/companies as well as on the governance of supply

chains but also on the territories and local production systems and, more generally on the vitality and attractiveness of rural areas.

The 13th AIEEA Annual Conference, titled "The social sustainability of European agriculture facing old and new challenges. Issues, methods and policies ", aims at contributing to the discussion and to advancing the shared knowledge on the above comprehensive theme with respect to concept definitions and analysis, as well as on methodological issues, policy tools and perspectives.

The overall conference theme has a focus on, but is not limited to, the following sub-themes:

- ✓ Advancing the theoretical framework for analyzing social sustainability.
- ✓ Advancing the measure(s) of social sustainability through data collection and identification of indicators.
- ✓ Intersections, synergies, and trade-offs among the three dimensions of sustainability.
- ✓ Social issues in the agricultural labor market, including workers' protection and legality of labor; gender issues; demographic change; generational turnover, the management of migration flows.
- ✓ Social innovations facing emerging challenges: governance, practices and policy issues.
- ✓ The role of social farming in all its diverse forms.
- ✓ The social impact of unfairness and unbalances along supply chains (e.g. Unfair Trade Practices).
- ✓ Implications for the society of food safety and food security disruptions.
- ✓ Policy options to respond to social sustainability issues.
- ✓ Social challenges and opportunities deriving from technological innovations and consequent emerging re-organization processes.
- ✓ Living conditions and quality of life in rural areas.

AIEEA welcomes the submission of contributions on the topics above. However, the submission of contributions on other agricultural and applied economics topics is also encouraged.

### **Submissions**

Contribution proposals should be submitted in English through the Conference management platform, Conftool, available from the Conference page on the AIEEA website ([www.aieea.org](http://www.aieea.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 papers* - Participants intending to present a contributed paper are requested to submit an extended abstract (minimum 1,500 words; maximum 2,000 words) before **February 29<sup>th</sup>, 2024**.

Abstracts should include the following:

- a. Introduction to the topic and objectives of the paper
- b. Description of data and research methodology
- c. Discussion of the expected theoretical and empirical results

- d. Main conclusions and 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 **April 15<sup>th</sup>, 2024**.

The final version of accepted contributions (either in the form of a full paper or revised extended abstract) should be submitted by **May 31<sup>st</sup>, 2024**.

Upon the Authors' authorization, the final version of the abstract/paper will be made available on the conference website and *AgEcon Search*.

Authors may indicate their willingness to participate in the Special Issue that Bio-based and Applied Economics dedicates to the Annual Conference of the AIEEA. The papers will be subject to a standard review process.

*Organized sessions and Panel sessions* - Participants are invited to propose organized and panel sessions primarily, but not exclusively, on topics relevant to the Conference themes. Organized sessions include several (papers) presentations around a given topic; while organized panel sessions include several experts discussing a specific topic. It is suggested that the proposed sessions include up to four presentations/panelists. Proposals should be submitted by **March 15<sup>th</sup>, 2024**. Proposals will be subject to a peer review process. Authors will be notified of acceptance by **April 24<sup>th</sup>, 2024**.

*Pitches* - AIEEA welcomes the submission of pitches (short presentations of maximum 5 minutes and 3 slides). Accepted pitches will be presented and discussed in the parallel sessions. Participants should submit an abstract (max 500 words) by **March 15<sup>th</sup>, 2024**. Pitches proposals will be subject to a blind peer review process. Authors will be notified of acceptance by **April 24<sup>th</sup>, 2024**.

### **Presenting author's registration**

Authors presenting papers, pitches, organized or panel sessions must register for the Conference before **May 31<sup>st</sup>, 2024** (failing that, the papers/sessions/pitches will be withdrawn from the Conference program).

### **Ornella Maietta Best paper award**

The best paper award 2024, entitled to Ornella Maietta, will be selected among papers accepted for presentation at the AIEEA 2024 Conference. The requirements for consideration for the best paper award are: a) the first author and presenter is below 40 years; b) the full paper is uploaded by **May 31<sup>st</sup> 2024**.

### **Important deadlines**

Abstract submission by authors: **February 29<sup>th</sup>, 2024**

Organized session/pitches submission: **March 15<sup>th</sup>, 2024**

Notification of acceptance to abstract authors: **April 15<sup>th</sup>, 2024**

Notification of acceptance to session/pitches authors: **April 24<sup>th</sup>, 2024**

Final contributions submission: **May 31<sup>st</sup>, 2024**

Authors' registration deadline: **May 31<sup>st</sup>, 2024**

### **Keynote speakers**

Jesùs Antòn (OECD)

Eva-Marie Meemken (ETH Zurich)

### **Plenary panel session**

"Evaluating and monitoring the sustainability of EU farms: the new FSDN"

(organized by CREA PB)

### **Conference Schedule**

Wednesday, June 19, 2024: Afternoon	AIEEA – Young Researchers Day 2024 (see the specific Call for papers for deadlines and fees)
Thursday, June 20, 2024: Morning	AIEEA pre-Conference
Thursday, June 20, 2024: Afternoon	13th AIEEA Conference
Friday, June 21, 2024: all-day	

### **Program Committee**

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### **Local Organizing Committee**

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Cristina Vaquero Pineiro (University of Roma Tre, Rome and member of the AIEEA Board)

### **Registration Fees**

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

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

Regular fee: 280€ (200€ if already AIEEA member in 2024)

Reduced fee (Ph.D. students, Postdoc): 150€ (110€ if already AIEEA member in 2024)

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

Regular fee: 320€ (240€ if already AIEEA member in 2024)

Reduced fee (Ph.D. students, Postdoc): 210€ (170€ if already AIEEA member in 2024)

### **Registration Procedure**

Online registration will be possible on the [Conference website](#).

For AIEEA – Young Researchers Day 2024 follow the instructions in the specific Call.

### **Information and contacts**

For updated information and contacts, please refer to the [Conference website](#) or email [aieea2024@conftool.net](mailto:aieea2024@conftool.net)