

## **Editorial**

This issue is the first of volume 20 of the journal *Economia agro-alimentare / Food Economy*. This volume marks a fundamental milestone in the journal's lifespan since we achieved the most crucial objective that we inherited from the previous Editorial Board.

The Content Selection and Advisory Board (CSAB) evaluated our title for inclusion in Scopus. The CSAB acknowledged that *Economia Agro-Alimentare / Food Economy* is an international journal focused on agricultural and food systems, covering socio-economic, political, legal, and technical issues. They appreciated the international Editorial Board and Advisory Board and the fact that other journals indexed in Scopus will cite the journal. Their final evaluation is that *Economia Agro-Alimentare / Food Economy* meets the criteria to be indexed, and it advised that the title should be accepted for inclusion in Scopus.

The Source Collection Management department has already contacted the publisher to initiate the indexing process for Scopus, and signing off for content coverage agreement will be made. Afterwards, it will be possible to add the content to Scopus.com.

For the Editorial Board, this is an important step forward in a process started in 2011 which aimed to position the journal among the key publication outlets for scholars researching the food system. The Editorial Board wishes to acknowledge the work done by the previous colleagues who managed the journal before we stepped in, as well as the publisher, the authors and reviewers, the members of the Scientific Advisory Board, and of course the Presidential Boards of SIEA that relentlessly supported the journal. The process is still ongoing, and we aim at improving our performance further, but this success is a useful reassurance that we are heading in the right direction.

The inaugural issue of the 20<sup>th</sup> volume offers five articles that span food consumer behaviour, labour and sustainability issues in the agri-food system.

Subjects addressed by the articles published in this issue include:

- consumer preference and willingness-to-pay
- consumer preference and authenticity of food

- labour mistreatment in agriculture
- efficiency and self-sufficiency in dairy production
- demand relationship between organic and conventional poultry products
- corporate social responsibility reporting

In the first paper, Aluisio Goulart Silva, Maurizio Canavari, and Alcido Elenor Wander present a study on 'Consumer preferences and willingness-to-pay for integrated production label on common beans'. They analyse Brazilian consumer perception of the hypothetical Integrated Production label on beans. They used, a discrete choice approach considering three attributes (label, price and brand), and estimated multinomial logit and mixed logit models. The results indicate that respondents are sensitive to the presence of the label and are willing to pay more for IP certified beans. This study can help the process of structuring IP adoption at the farm level by providing producers with information about the price level of the certified product.

The second article authored by Johanna Katharina Schenner, titled 'The governance of the horticultural supply chain in the United Kingdom: A source of forced labour?', offers an important contribution of knowledge concerning the problem of labour mistreatment in agriculture. The author has conducted 16 qualitative in-depth interviews with a diverse range of actors in or experts on the UK horticultural supply chain, thus providing different perspectives on forced labour. The paper outlines and discusses five drivers of the phenomenon in the UK horticultural sector, and proposes some interesting policy recommendation.

In the third article, Elhassan Benyagoub, Bettache Guessas, Mohammed Ayat, and Ramdane Benyagoub present a contribution titled 'Cost price/quality relationship of a strategic product and self-sufficiency challenge in the Algerian dairy sector: the case study of a local dairy industry'. They offer evidence of the cost price/quality relationship for dairy products and a description of the state subsidy policy on the safety aspect of milk. The authors analyse the hygienic quality of 50 samples of packaged pasteurised milk and estimate their cost price at the private dairy factory of Adrar (Algeria). The official statistics recently published and the various programs adopted by the Algerian state defining this policy were also considered. The results indicate that state subsidy contributes to cover the demand of the national market, but with a high dependence on the importation of raw material.

The topic of the fourth paper, titled 'Substitutability between organic and conventional poultry products and organic price premiums' and written by Eve Sohae Oh and Tomislav Vukina, is very pertinent considering the increase in poultry products demand. The paper presents an exploratory analysis of *price premia* of organic poultry products (eggs, whole chickens, boneless breasts and whole legs) at the retail level and econometric estimation of cross-price elasticities of conventional eggs and ready-to-cook chickens demands, concerning the price of the corresponding organic categories. The empirical analysis provides insights on the possible impact of new regulations on organic standards.

The last article, authored by Valeria Sodano and Martin Hingley, titled ‘Corporate social responsibility reporting: the case of the agri-food sector’ discusses a very important issue in the effort of companies to pursue sustainability. The paper offers a typology of the forms of CSR in the food system, and questions whether the ‘private’ approach to reporting is effective, or whether the role of the government could work better. The authors assess the commitment to sustainability using a sample of reports published by major agribusiness companies operating in the seed, agrochemical, food processing and retailing industries. The reports are analysed through a content analysis framework, and a low level of comprehensive reporting has been identified.

The geographical scope of the topics dealt with in this issue ranges from Brazil, the United Kingdom, Algeria, the United States of America, to Italy. Also, the authors are from different countries, namely two authors from Brazil, four from Algeria, two from the United States of America, two from Italy, one each from Austria and UK, while the scope of the analysis spans from local to global. All the five papers in this issue are published in English, in line with the current editorial policy of the journal.

As always, we acknowledge and appreciate the support of our community of authors and readers, and we look forward to continued engagement and a growing amount of submissions. We are confident we can continue to provide our readers with up-to-date, relevant, and interesting analyses of issues related to the food system.

Like every year since 2011, we allowed a turn-over in the Scientific Advisory Board, and we substituted some of the members. We express our warmest appreciation to those SAB members who have served until last year and now leave the Board. We are extremely grateful for the invaluable work they have done in contributing both to our peer-review system and to the development of the Journal. We deem the international nature and high profile of the Scientific Advisory Board as main determinants of the success of our journal. We also welcome new SAB members for the current year. The full list of the current SAB members can be found on the inside cover of the Journal as well as on the new website, at the address <http://www.economiaagroalimentare.it>. The Editor-in-Chief and the Editorial Board look forward to working with our new Scientific Advisory Board, relying upon their expertise and commitment.

The Editor-in-Chief

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