
Economia agro-alimentare / Food Economy

An International Journal on Agricultural and Food Systems

Vol. 24, Iss. 3, Art. 7, pp. 1-4 - ISSN 1126-1668 - ISSNe 1972-4802

DOI: 10.3280/ecag2022oa15245



Editorial

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The Volume 24, Issue 3 of *Economia agro-alimentare / Food Economy*, features four regular Articles and two Notes, all written in English. The articles mainly cover issues related to forest products, seafood, cereals, pork, considering their use, value chain, consumer perception and willingness to purchase.

The range of the analysis goes from local to global and covers geographical areas in Europe, South America and Africa.

The authors are affiliated with Institutions based in Italy, Colombia, France, and Nigeria.

The article by Balanta Martínez, Celis Parra, Gonzáles Muñoz & Ortiz Meneses, titled “Factors influencing the use of non-timber forest products in cattle production under humid tropical conditions” aims to determine the socioeconomic factors that affect the use of non-timber forest resources in the Colombian Amazon region. The study found that knowledge about Non-Timber Forest Products (NTFP) and strategies for knowledge transfer are key factors affecting their use for cattle nutrition. The study emphasizes the importance of investing in knowledge transfer strategies and programs that aim to increase producers’ awareness and understanding of NTFP. Additionally, the availability of resources, such as land and financial

resources, also play a significant role in using NTFP for cattle nutrition. Factors such as the level of education and the producer's age also impacted the use of NTFP.

In the article “Adapting a participatory modelling method to prospect scenarios of food systems: case study on the pork value-chain”, written by Chaib, Macombe & Thamopoulos, the authors compare a “classic” prospective method to co-construct scenarios of the evolution of the food system with its stakeholders with an “adapted method” that was implemented because of the pandemic situation. The participatory foresight methods were used to create scenarios for the evolution of French pork value-chain and select the most desirable ones. This value-chain is a good example of challenges such as environmental impact, human resources, and social acceptability that many food value-chains in developed countries face. Adaptations were made to the participatory scenario method for remote working during the pandemic, including organizational and methodological changes. The approach allowed introducing new ideas, familiarising influential players with potential changes to be adopted quickly.

The article “Social farming in high mountain regions: the case of the Aosta Valley in Italy” by Fazari & Musolino, examines social farming (SF) in a mountain area in Italy, highlighting its social mission and economic sustainability. It uses literature and 3 case studies from semi-structured interviews to show that SF fulfils a crucial social role in remote areas and is economically sustainable based on environmental and agricultural resources in high mountain regions. SF can restore meaning to agricultural work, enable the work placement and social inclusion of disadvantaged people and reverse the depopulation of rural areas. The paper suggests that policymakers should prioritize developing SF in mountain areas, including recruiting and training qualified staff, supporting new investments and improving distribution and sales stages.

Oteh, Agwu, Mbanasor, Ibem, Okpokiri, Oloveze & Onwusiribe, in the article “Wheat or cassava flour? Marketing and willingness to pay for cassava flour confectioneries in Nigeria”, examine consumer perception and willingness to purchase confectionery made from cassava flour, in light of the global supply disruption emanating from the Russia-Ukraine war. Based on a cross-sectional survey in Abia State, Nigeria, the study found that taste, awareness, odour, and availability shape consumer perception but low awareness of its existence and nutritional and economic values persist. Improving packaging, labelling, availability, and price can improve consumer perception. According to the authors, the government should also encourage

the cassava value chain diversification and the production of High Quality Cassava Flour.

The current issue continues with two Notes.

In the note “An overview of state subsidies in Italian agriculture in the period 2000-2019” written by Briamonte, Vaccari, Gaudio, Amato, Piatto & Ievoli, a descriptive analysis of public support for agriculture in Italy over the two decades just before Covid-19 pandemic is provided. Overall public support for the agriculture sector decreased by over EUR 4 billion, and the share of support in agricultural added value also decreased. The decrease is due to the halving of tax and social security reliefs and the significant reduction in the support provided by the budgets of the regions and autonomous provinces. EU support was stable in the first decade and increased in the last ten years. The paper highlights different support models characterizing the different regions.

Romanelli & Giovanardi wrote the note “Commentary on Italy’s international seafood trade and some of its impacts” to examine the state of Italy’s seafood trade within the European Union. The paper highlights that Italy has significantly higher commercial deficits than other EU-27 member states with similar populations. Domestic production from fishing and aquaculture only covers 20% of consumption, and even less in the case of crustaceans and cephalopods. Inflows from abroad in 2016-2019 were considerably concentrated on some species (or their groups). Despite this dependence, per capita consumption in Italy is high. Additionally, a significant proportion of imported seafood is obtained through fishing rather than aquaculture. The study suggests that, to improve the overall sustainability of Italy’s seafood trade, Italy should focus on more sustainable exploitation of its own fishing resources, the development of domestic aquaculture, and a shift in consumption patterns towards less reliance on wild fish and shellfish.

Like every year since 2011, we will change some of the Scientific Advisory Board members to expand the opportunities to contribute to the scientific development of our journal’s community of practice. We heartily thank the SAB members leaving the Board at the end of 2022. The scholarly contribution of all the SAB members has been terrific, and we are grateful for their help in reviewing, suggesting reviewers, and evaluating the papers published in the previous year as candidates for the “Best Paper Award”.

It is a good opportunity to remind the results of the “Best Paper Award” for Articles & Notes written in English. In 2021, 29 papers published in

our journal were eligible. Each member of the Scientific Advisory Board used 5 evaluation parameters to score 4 articles randomly assigned to them. Overall, 172 evaluations were received, and each article received a minimum of 4 evaluations. The award was assigned to De Devitiis, Viscecchia, Carfora, Cavallo, Cicia, Del Giudice, Menna, Nardone & Seccia for their article “Parents’ trust in food safety and healthiness of children’s diets: A TPB model explaining the role of retailers and government”, published in *Economia Agro-alimentare/Food Economy*, 23(2).

We also welcome the new SAB members for the year 2023, who will help us confirm the journal’s strong international character. The updated list of SAB members will be available in the journal front matter in the next issue and on the website <http://www.economiaagroalimentare.it>. The Editor-in-Chief and the Editorial Board look forward to working with our new Scientific Advisory Board during the next year. The journal’s Editorial Board remains unchanged, the members are grateful to the SIEA Presidential Board for the renewed trust.

We also wish to thank once again the staff of FrancoAngeli Edizioni for the usual high-quality work in editing and publishing the journal. We look forward to continuing to work with them also next year.

As usual, we appreciate the support of our community of authors and readers. The editorial team especially thanks the reviewers who contributed to this journal’s manuscript selection process. Their expertise and dedication have been instrumental in ensuring the high quality of the manuscripts that we publish. We recognize that reviewing is a significant and often underappreciated task, and we are grateful for the time and effort that they have invested in evaluating the submissions to *Economia agro-alimentare / Food Economy* during the year 2022, providing insightful feedback to the authors. The complete list of reviewers is available at the end of the issue.

We hope this volume has provided valuable insights and sparked further interest in the covered topics. We extend our gratitude to the readers for taking the time to engage with our work, and we look forward to continuing the conversation in the academic community.