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Editorial

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We are happy to introduce the inaugural issue of volume 25 of our journal. This issue contains two regular articles and seven special issue articles, all of them are written in English and have undergone double-blind peer-review to ensure the highest quality. The articles mainly cover issues related to preferences for functional food, contract farming, sustainability and circular economy.

The scope of the analysis is mainly local or national, covering geographical areas in Europe (Italy), South America (Colombia), and Asia (Indonesia).

The authors are affiliated with Institutions based in Italy, Colombia, Japan, and Indonesia.

The regular article “Healthy food consumption in the Covid-19 era: Empirical evidence from Italian consumers choices on functional products” by Dell’Unto, Meccariello, and Cortignani investigates the impact of the Covid-19 pandemic on the consumption of high-amylose soft wheat flour confectionery products (HACPs) in Italy. The study collected data from 312 Italian consumers through a survey and analyzed the factors that influence the consumption of functional foods during the pandemic using logistic regression analysis. Results show that two-thirds of respondents were willing

to pay a premium price for the functional product. The analysis of the Binary Logit model revealed that factors such as age, level of family income, satisfaction with family income during the pandemic, habit of purchasing food products on e-commerce channels, adoption of healthy eating styles, and belief that functional foods can improve well-being positively influence the perceived value of the functional properties. Conversely, family size, presence of dependent members, and high frequency of physical activity affect perceived value negatively. The authors suggest that these findings could help the food industry in Italy to identify market segments and target marketing strategies towards specific groups of consumers.

The second regular article, “Impact of Contract Farming on the Technical Efficiency of Broiler Farmers in Indonesia”, by Rokhani, Mohammad Rondhi, Ebban Bagus Kuntadi, Anik Suwandari, Rizky Yanuarti, Ahmad Fatikhul Khasan, Yasuhiro Mori, and Takumi Kondo, investigates the impact of contract farming on the technical efficiency of broiler farmers in Indonesia. The study collected data from 94 broiler farmers, including 47 contract farmers and 47 independent farmers, and used stochastic frontier analysis to measure technical efficiency. The study found that contract farmers had higher technical efficiency than independent farmers and that the use of hybrid chickens and vaccines positively influenced technical efficiency. The study suggests that contract farming can improve the livelihoods of smallholder broiler farmers in Indonesia by providing them with technical assistance, better inputs, and market access.

The following part of the issue features a selection of articles presented during the “International Congress on Economics, Sustainability, and Circular Economy” held in August 2022 in Montería, Colombia. The congress was focused on sustainable and circular agriculture to promote interdisciplinary discussions and alternative approaches to global rural development. It featured two thematic areas: “sustainable agricultural technologies and innovation” and “economics and agroecology.” The congress aimed to bring together researchers from various fields, including social sciences, engineering, and basic sciences, to discuss and propose scientific explanations for contemporary global changes.

The guest editors Rubén Darío Sepúlveda Vargas, Diego Alejandro Camargo Trillos, Deivi David Fuentes Doria, Carlos Eduardo Maldonado Castañeda, made a first selection of papers they deemed suitable for publication in *Economia agro-alimentare/Food Economy* and, with the support of Valeria Borsellino and Alessandro Palmieri, managed the standard review process required by the journal. The Guest Editorial “Bioeconomics and its Derivations: Ecological Economics and Political

Ecology” opens and introduces the Special Issue. We are happy to host these contributions, seven thematically based research papers dealing with issues such as floods, soil, and water and waste management. Five papers view these issues within the context of rural sustainable development, while one focuses on urban development and on the circular entrepreneurial economy. The seven paper deals with migration from the countryside.

Since 2011, we have made it a tradition to change some members of the Scientific Advisory Board (SAB) to provide more opportunities for the scientific advancement of our journal’s community of practice. We extend our heartfelt gratitude to the SAB members who left the Board at the end of 2022, namely Riccardo Scarpa, Rodolfo M. Nayga, Dominique Barjolle, Livia Madureira, Nadhem Mtimet, and Nicola Cantore, for their invaluable service in the past years. We appreciate the excellent scholarly contributions of all SAB members and are grateful for their assistance in reviewing, suggesting reviewers, and evaluating papers for the “Best Paper Award” in the previous year.

The updated list of 48 Scientific Advisory Board (SAB) members for the year 2023 is available in the journal’s front matter and on the journal’s website <https://economiaagroalimentare.it>, and we are delighted to welcome the new members who will assist us in maintaining the journal’s international character. Our current SAB comprises scholars from various institutions in Italy (13), USA (7), Germany and the UK (4), France and Greece (3), Brazil (2), Albania, Australia, Austria, Belgium, Hungary, the Netherlands, Norway, Poland, the Republic of Korea, and Sweden (1), as well as 2 international institutions. The Editor-in-Chief and the Editorial Board warmly welcome the new members and look forward to collaborating with all the SAB members.

There have been no changes to the Editorial Board of the journal. We want to take this opportunity to express our gratitude to the SIEA Presidential Board for renewing their trust in us. We are grateful for the continued support of the scholarly community represented by SIEA, and we commit ourselves to maintain the highest standards of academic excellence in all our editorial decisions.

We acknowledge the ongoing support of our community of authors, reviewers, and readers, for their contribution to the success of our journal. Specifically, we are grateful for the invaluable contributions of the reviewers, who play an essential role in ensuring the quality and relevance of the manuscripts we publish. Their insightful feedback and expertise are highly appreciated.

Editorial

Finally, we would like to express our sincere gratitude to the staff of FrancoAngeli Edizioni for their excellent work in editing and publishing the journal. Their dedication to maintaining the high standards of our publication is remarkable, and we look forward to collaborating with them in the coming year.