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## Editorial

**Maurizio Canavari<sup>a</sup>, Sedef Akgüngör<sup>b</sup>, Valeria Borsellino<sup>c</sup>,  
Alessio Cavicchi<sup>d</sup>, Catherine Chan<sup>e</sup>, Alessio Ishizaka<sup>f</sup>,  
Simona Naspetti<sup>g</sup>, Søren Marcus Pedersen<sup>h</sup>, Stefanella Stranieri<sup>i</sup>**

<sup>a</sup> Alma Mater Studiorum-Università di Bologna, Italy

<sup>b</sup> Dokuz Eylül Üniversitesi, Turkey

<sup>c</sup> Università degli Studi di Palermo, Italy

<sup>d</sup> Università degli Studi di Pisa, Italy

<sup>e</sup> University of Hawai'i at Mānoa, USA

<sup>f</sup> NEOMA Business School, France

<sup>g</sup> Università Politecnica delle Marche, Italy

<sup>h</sup> Københavns Universitet, Denmark

<sup>i</sup> Università degli Studi di Milano, Italy

We are happy to introduce our journal's first issue of volume 26. This issue contains five regular articles and one note, all written in English. The articles mainly cover issues related to the cultural and social dimensions of agriculture, investment strategies in the agri-food sector, the economic potential of geographic indications, social innovation in farming, technological advancements for food security, and the professional landscape of organic farming support.

The articles cover various topics related to the agri-food sector, spanning geographical areas in Europe (Italy), South America (Colombia), Africa (Ethiopia) and Asia (Indonesia, Taiwan).

The authors are affiliated with Institutions based in Colombia, Indonesia, Italy, Thailand, Taiwan, and Ethiopia.

The article by Mauricio Alzate Gómez, Humberto Thomé-Ortiz “What happened to the subjects? Questions about mezcal” explores the cultural and social dimensions of mezcal production and consumption, examining how these aspects have evolved over time and their implications for local communities and markets. The research uncovers the deep-rooted traditions and contemporary challenges facing mezcal producers, highlighting the need for policies that support sustainable practices and cultural preservation. The

findings suggest that recognising and protecting mezcal's cultural heritage can enhance its market appeal and economic potential.

The article by Song Soo Lim, Dae Eui Kim “Determinants of Agri-food Investment from Fund Managers’ Viewpoint”, provides insights into the financial strategies and criteria that drive investment in this critical sector. The study highlights the importance of corporate-like management practices and commercialisation readiness in attracting venture investments. Results indicate that a supportive regulatory environment and targeted incentives can significantly boost investment flows into the agri-food sector, fostering innovation and growth.

The article by Christian Franco Crespo, Henry Nuñez, Sandra Baldeon-Baez “Unearthing Unique Value: Exploring the Potential of Protected Designation of Origin on the Tangerine Industry of Patate, Tungurahua” emphasises the role of local climatic conditions, unique soil characteristics, and traditional cultivation techniques in determining the fruit's unique properties, supporting its potential PDO status to enhance market value and economic benefits for local farmers. The results show that PDO status could lead to increased recognition and higher prices for Patate tangerines, encouraging sustainable agricultural practices and boosting local economies.

The article by Annapia Ferrara “Understanding tourism in social farming as a form of social innovation”, presents a literature review to frame tourism in social farming as an innovative social practice, revealing how it addresses societal challenges, enhances social actors’ agency, and fosters new relationships among them. The paper proposes a comprehensive framework to understand these dynamics. The results show that social farming can significantly contribute to community development and social cohesion, offering a sustainable model for rural tourism.

The article by Thomas Soseco, Isnawati Hidayah, Nila Cahayati, Fajar Try Leksono “Access to Technology to Increase Food Resilience in Rural Households in Indonesia”, emphasises the role of internet penetration and technological adoption in enhancing food security and household well-being. The study provides valuable insights into the strategies to improve food resilience through better access to technology. The findings suggest that enhancing digital infrastructure and education can significantly improve food resilience, reducing vulnerability to food shortages and economic shocks.

Finally, the note “Advisors and inspectors for the development of organic agriculture in Italy”, authored by Roberta Milardo and Aldo Bertazzoli,

investigates the working conditions and job satisfaction levels among these professionals, highlighting their critical role in supporting the organic sector and suggesting strategies for improvement. The results indicate that improving training and resources for advisors and inspectors can enhance the effectiveness of organic agriculture promotion, leading to greater adoption of organic practices and improved sustainability in the sector.

We welcome the new members of the Scientific Advisory Board (SAB), namely Alessandro Bonadonna (Università degli Studi di Torino, Italy), Ignazio Cabras (University of Northumbria in Newcastle, UK), Roberta Capitello (Università degli Studi di Verona, Italy), Shaosheng Jin (Zhejiang University, P.R. of China), Dulekha Kasturiratne (University of Plymouth, UK), Keijiro Otsuka (Kobe University, Japan), Maria Angela Perito (Università degli Studi di Teramo, Italy), and Rosanna Salvia (Università degli Studi della Basilicata, Italy). We are grateful for their availability to join us and help us 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 2024 can be found in the preliminary section of the journal as well as on the journal’s website, <https://economiaagroalimentare.it>. Our current SAB is composed of scholars associated with diverse 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 welcome the new members and anticipate fruitful collaboration with all SAB members.

There have been no other changes to the journal’s Editorial Board. We seize this opportunity to thank the SIEA Presidential Board for renewing their trust in the Editor-in-Chief and Associate Editors. We are thankful for the continued support from the scholarly community represented by SIEA, and we pledge to uphold the highest standards of academic excellence in all our editorial decisions.

Finally, we are happy to announce that *Economia Agro-alimentare/Food Economy* has passed the editorial evaluation and is now eligible for inclusion in the Web of Science Core Collection. The journal has met the selection criteria for inclusion in the Emerging Sources Citation Index provided by Clarivate. Full acceptance and inclusion are pending the submission of journal content in a format that meets the technical requirements for indexing. Once accepted, a formal acceptance letter will be issued. This milestone achievement is due to the hard work and dedication of our editorial

team, reviewers, authors, publisher, and supporters. We recognise and appreciate the continued support of our community of authors, reviewers, and readers for their contributions to the success of our journal. Particularly, we are thankful for the irreplaceable input of the reviewers, who have a vital role in ensuring the quality and significance of the manuscripts we publish. Their insightful feedback and expertise are highly esteemed.

Lastly, we sincerely thank FrancoAngeli Edizioni's staff for their exceptional work in editing and publishing the journal. Their unwavering dedication to maintaining the elevated standards of our publication is praiseworthy, and we look forward to continued collaboration with them in the upcoming year.