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## Farewell Editorial for the Issue 3/2024

**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

The work published in Issue 3/2024 of *Economia agro-alimentare / Food Economy* highlights both the journal's enduring relevance and its growing global impact. Issue 3/2024 is special for several reasons. It not only showcases the cutting-edge research published in the journal but also highlights the vital role of **digital and environmental innovations** in advancing sustainability in the agri-food sector. The contributions featured in this issue stem from the **XXXI SIEA Conference**, held in **Venice** on **June 15-16, 2023**, and were edited by **Christine Mauracher, Vladi Finotto**, and **Chiara Rinaldi**. These papers focus on how **digital tools** and **sustainability measures** can reshape food production, supply chains, and consumption patterns. Their **Guest Editorial** introduces these contributions, providing insights into how the agri-food sector can evolve by integrating digital and environmental innovations into its business models.

Also featured in this issue is an article by **Ferry Syarifuddin**, titled "*Islamic Macropprudential Policy to Support Staple Agricultural Sector Financing.*" This work examines how **Islamic financial instruments** can help finance staple crop production in Indonesia. Syarifuddin uses **Delphi-ANP analysis** to propose Islamic agricultural lending models, providing a sustainable alternative for financing large agricultural sectors in emerging

economies like Indonesia. His study offers a promising approach to financing agriculture while respecting local cultural and economic contexts.

As we close **Issue 3/2024** of *Economia agro-alimentare / Food Economy*, we are not only celebrating the achievements of this current issue but also reflecting on a transformative journey that began in 2011, under the editorial leadership of **Prof. Gervasio Antonelli** (2011-2016), whose new vision shaped the journal's mission and its focus on promoting high-quality academic research in the field of agro-food economics. The article **“The Scientific and Editorial History of the Journal *Economia agro-alimentare*”** (Antonelli *et al.*, 2016), laid the foundation for what *Economia agro-alimentare* would become – a leading academic journal that contributes to discussions on the economic aspects of agriculture, food systems, sustainability, and related policy issues. Antonelli's guidance helped establish the journal as a critical player in academic discourse, both within Italy and internationally.

In June 2016, I took on the role of Editor-in-Chief. The journey was filled with challenges – moments of stress and uncertainty balanced with excitement and pride over the journal's progress. But as I reflect on the milestones we've achieved, I do so with immense pride, knowing that we've grown into an internationally recognized journal with a global influence. This issue marks the final one under my leadership, and it serves as an opportunity to reflect on the journal's journey, its impact, and the work of our contributors.

Looking back on the journal's trajectory, it is clear that we've made significant progress. One of the key milestones was being included in **Scopus** in 2018, which marked the beginning of our international recognition. The year 2024 also brought a major achievement: our inclusion in **Web of Science**, alongside our listing in the **Master's Journal List of Clarivate Analytics**. This will allow us to receive our first **Journal Impact Factor** next year, a landmark achievement for any academic journal. These accomplishments solidify *Economia agro-alimentare* as a key player in global academic discourse, reflecting the growing quality and relevance of the research we publish.

Another important achievement is the increase in our citation rates. According to **Scopus**, the following papers have been the most-cited in the years 2016-2024, underscoring the growing academic interest in our journal:

1. **“Food Loss and Waste, a Global Responsibility?!”** (Adamashvili *et al.*, 2019) – This paper has been cited extensively for its analysis of the global food loss and waste problem, a key theme in sustainability discussions worldwide.
2. **“Lessons of Innovation in the Agrifood Sector: Drivers of Innovativeness Performances”** (Finco *et al.*, 2018) – This study offers

valuable insights into the factors driving innovation in the agri-food sector, an increasingly important area of research as the industry faces new challenges and opportunities.

3. **“The Potential of Urban Agriculture Towards a More Sustainable Urban Food System in Food-Insecure Neighbourhoods in Cape Town and Maputo”** (Paganini *et al.*, 2018) – This paper highlights the role of urban agriculture in addressing food insecurity, providing a critical framework for sustainable urban food systems.

These papers reflect the journal’s focus on key themes like sustainability, innovation, food security, and urban agriculture, all of which have had significant impacts on the academic and policy-making communities.

In the period 2017-2024 the journal has published 210 articles (including Notes and Editorials).

The journal’s geographical scope has always been broad, addressing global issues while considering regional challenges. As we examine the geographical areas covered in the journal, it becomes clear that *Economia agro-alimentare* has provided valuable insights into the unique dynamics of food systems around the world. Our coverage includes research from several continents, each presenting its own challenges and opportunities in the context of food economics.

1. **Europe.** Europe has long been a focal point of our journal, with much of the research examining the **Common Agricultural Policy (CAP)**, **EU subsidies**, and the sustainability of farming practices in the region (Briamonte *et al.*, 2023). Studies have also explored rural development and the challenges faced by Mediterranean countries like **Italy**, **Spain**, and **Greece**, where agriculture is under pressure from climate change, land degradation, and evolving market demands (Cisilino & Vanni, 2019). For example, studies from **Italy** have provided important insights into the sustainability of **organic farming** and the role of **agriculture in regional development** in areas like **Basilicata** (D’Oronzio & Sica, 2021).
2. **Asia.** Asia, with its rapidly growing population and diverse agricultural sectors, has featured heavily in our journal. Countries such as **China**, **India**, **Kazakhstan**, and **Indonesia** have been central to studies examining the role of innovation in agriculture, including the use of **digital tools** and **precision farming technologies** to increase productivity and sustainability. Research on **agricultural trade**, **agricultural finance**, **food security**, and **contract farming** has also been key, particularly in countries like **India** and **Vietnam**, where agriculture plays a crucial role in livelihoods (Pomfret, 2017).
3. **Africa.** Africa’s agricultural landscape has been a key area of focus, particularly in the context of **smallholder farmers** and **climate resilience**. Studies have explored how **small-scale farmers** can be supported through

better market access, policy reforms, and the integration of sustainable agricultural practices. Countries like **Kenya**, **Nigeria**, and **South Africa** have been the focus of research on food security, climate change adaptation, and the need for innovation in agricultural practices.

4. **North America.** Research from the **United States** and **Canada** has largely focused on **consumer behavior**, **food safety**, and the role of **agri-businesses** in sustainable agriculture. Research has also examined the impact of **precision agriculture** on improving productivity and reducing environmental impact.
5. **Latin America.** Latin America, with its rich agricultural resources, has contributed significantly to research on **agricultural exports**, **land use**, and the impact of **global trade agreements** on food systems (García Arancibia, 2019). **Brazil**, **Colombia** (Mendez Nobles *et al.*, 2023) and **Mexico** (Alzate Gómez & Thomé-Ortiz, 2024) have been featured in studies on **agribusinesses**, **sustainable farming**, and the **role of trade agreements** in shaping local agricultural practices and food systems.

The journal's international scope highlights the diverse ways in which food systems operate globally, with each region facing unique challenges but also contributing solutions to common problems.

Over the years, *Economia agro-alimentare* has addressed a wide range of themes, many of which have become increasingly important as the challenges facing global food systems intensify. The journal's thematic focus reflects both the complexity of food systems and the urgent need for innovative solutions.

1. **Innovation and Technology in Agriculture.** One of the key themes in the journal is **innovation in agriculture**. Papers have focused on how **new technologies**, such as **AI**, **robotics**, and **precision farming**, are transforming the agri-food sector (Finco *et al.*, 2018; Medici *et al.*, 2020). These technologies have the potential to significantly enhance agricultural productivity and sustainability, reducing the sector's environmental footprint while meeting the growing global demand for food. A recent example examines **urban agriculture** and its role in sustainable food systems in food-insecure areas of **Cape Town** and **Maputo** (Paganini *et al.*, 2018).
2. **Sustainability and Environmental Impact.** **Sustainability** has been at the heart of much of the journal's research. Our studies have covered various aspects of **sustainable farming**, including organic practices, **climate change resilience**, and the integration of **environmental technologies** into food production. These discussions are increasingly relevant as the agri-food sector is expected to contribute to global climate change mitigation efforts (Medici *et al.*, 2020).

3. **Food Security and Global Supply Chains.** As global food security becomes an ever-pressing issue, our journal has examined the vulnerabilities of food systems, including the **economic impacts of food shortages** and disruptions in **global supply chains**. We have also explored the role of policy frameworks in ensuring **food access** and **equitable food distribution** (Zecca & D’Errico, 2021).
4. **Consumer Behavior and Market Trends.** Understanding **consumer behavior** has been crucial in shaping food production and marketing strategies. Papers in this area have examined trends such as the demand for **organic foods**, **sustainability preferences**, and consumer attitudes toward **food safety** and **health-conscious eating** (De Devitiis *et al.*, 2021; Kokthi *et al.*, 2021).
5. **Policy Frameworks and Agricultural Support.** The role of policy in shaping the agricultural sector has been a consistent focus of the journal. Research has explored how **public policies**, such as subsidies and **agricultural support programs**, impact **sustainability** and **food security**. This includes a detailed examination of **EU agricultural policies** and their impact on rural development and **sustainable farming practices** (Briamonte *et al.*, 2023).

The journal has always encouraged rigorous, evidence-based research, employing a variety of methods to address complex questions in agro-food economics. These methods have included:

1. **Quantitative Analysis.** Many studies published in *Economia agro-alimentare* have employed **quantitative techniques**, such as **econometric modeling**, **survey analysis**, and **statistical methods** to analyze **agricultural policies**, **consumer behavior**, and **economic performance** of food systems. For example, recent work on **food loss and waste** (Adamashvili *et al.*, 2019) uses **quantitative methods** to assess global trends and policy implications.
2. **Case Studies.** Case studies have been essential in providing in-depth insights into how theories and policies are implemented in specific contexts. These papers offer valuable lessons for policymakers, practitioners, and researchers on how to address local challenges in food systems while considering global trends.
3. **Delphi and ANP Methods.** The use of **Delphi analysis** and **Analytic Network Process (ANP)** methods has been particularly valuable in assessing **agricultural financing systems** and the implementation of new technologies in agriculture.

## The journals' impact

During the period 2017-2024, 505 documents cited the articles we published.

## The Future of the Journal: Transition to New Leadership

I would also like to express my gratitude to the current members of the Editorial Board: **Sedef Akgüngör**, **Valeria Borsellino**, **Alessio Cavicchi**, **Catherine Chan-Halbrendt**, **Alessio Ishizaka**, **Simona Naspetti**, **Søren Marcus Pedersen**, and **Stefanella Stranieri**. Their contributions have shaped the journal into what it is today. I would also like to thank the earlier members of the Editorial Board: **John Stanton**, **Christine Mauracher**, **Martin Hingley**, and **Maro Vlachopoulou**.

As my time as Editor-in-Chief concludes, I am proud to hand over the leadership of *Economia agro-alimentare* to **Valeria Borsellino** (University of Palermo, Italy) and **Søren Marcus Pedersen** (Københavns Universitet, Denmark). Their deep expertise and vision for the journal will ensure its continued success.

The new editorial team, including **Giovanna Bertella** (UiT The Arctic University of Norway), **Luca Cacciolatti** (University of Westminster, UK), **Nicola Cantore** (UNIDO Vienna, Austria), **Alessandra Castellini** (Alma Mater Studiorum University of Bologna, Italy), **Alessio Cavicchi** (University of Pisa, Italy), and **Fabio A. Madau** (University of Sassari, Italy), will no doubt continue to guide the journal to new heights.

In closing, I would like to extend my deepest thanks to everyone involved in this journey – our readers, authors, reviewers, and the publisher, along with the SIEA Presidential Boards, who have supported the journal since its inception. It has been a privilege to serve as Editor-in-Chief, and I look forward to watching the journal thrive under its new leadership.

Warm regards,

*Maurizio Canavari*

Editor-in-Chief, *Economia agro-alimentare / Food Economy*

## Note in memory of Prof. Maurizio Canavari

It is with great sadness that we inform you that Prof. Maurizio Canavari, Editor-in-Chief of the journal *Economia Agro-Alimentare / Food Economy*, has left us prematurely.

Maurizio tirelessly dedicated his work and passion to this journal until the last days of his life, leaving us a legacy of extraordinary commitment and vision.

His outstanding contribution has enriched not only this journal, but the entire scientific community.

Our thoughts go out to his family, friends, colleagues, and all those who had the privilege of knowing and working with him.

May his memory and work be an inspiration and stimulus to us.

Valeria Borsellino and Søren Marcus Pedersen  
Co-Editor-in-Chief

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