

## Editorial

In this issue, we feature a selection of papers from the 24th Annual Conference of the International Sustainable Development Research Society (ISDRS), held in Messina, Italy, on June 13-15, 2018. The issue also includes three regular Articles (two in English and one in Italian) and one Note.

The guest editors Catherine Macombe, Raymond Auerbach, Andrea Raggi, and Roberta Salomone selected six papers among the proposals presented at the ISDRS Conference, in the track “Food security and agriculture” and made sure they were further reviewed and revised.

The special issue is introduced by the guest editorial “Future food availability is not only an agricultural topic, but also a society issue” that puts the articles in the framework of the theme. We are grateful to the guest editors for their efforts and the opportunity to publish a nice set of papers on a very important and up-to-date topic.

This issue of *Economia agro-alimentare* also include three regular articles that provide useful insight into specific aspects of the food system.

The article “The motivation behind drinking craft beer in Italian brew pubs: a case study” by Sergio Rivaroli, Martin K. Hingley, Roberta Spadoni describes a study on consumers of craft beer in Emilia-Romagna, based on the Theory of Planned Behaviour. They recruited brew-pubs customers to analyze their behavioural intention, attitudes, social norms, perceived behavioural control, adding also self-identity and desire for unique consumer products to the typical TPB constructs. They find out that self-identity is the first predictor of Italian consumer’s intentions to drink craft beers in brew pubs, while uniqueness has mixed effects.

The article “Have beer markets in European Union countries converged?” by Rosa Maria Fanelli is also dealing with the beer industry, but it focused on the evolution of the beer markets in EU countries, highlighting similarities/dissimilarities and convergence in the market structures. She identifies specific clusters of countries, and confirms the tendency for markets to converge, but it shows important structural differences between consolidated and more growing markets.

The article “La montagna e le zone svantaggiate nei Programmi di Sviluppo Rurale: una valutazione delle indennità compensative attraverso la RICA” [Mountain and less favoured areas in the Rural Development Programs: an evaluation of the compensatory allowances through FADN data] by Roberto Cagliero, Rita Iacono, Francesco Licciardo, Tiziana Prandi, and Novella Rossi is the only article written in Italian language in this issue. The study reflects on mountain farming and on Rural Development in mountain areas. It evaluates the support of the European Union to the Less Favoured Agricultural areas (LFA) using the case of Lombardy Region the “fair compensation” approach based on the data provided by the Farm Accountancy Data Network. The LFA schemes are designed to maintain agriculture and population in rural areas. The analysis of compensatory allowances show that subsidies have not been sufficient to provide adequate income compensation for natural handicaps in mountain areas and they may not be sufficient to foster continuation of agricultural activities.

The final contribution is the Note “A multi-stakeholder attempt to address food waste: the case of Wellfood Action EU project” proposed by Lorenzo Compagnucci, Alessio Cavicchi, Francesca Spigarelli, and Lorenza Natali. It offers the analysis of multi-actor experience, perspectives, and practices to manage food waste at local level and how a bottom-up approach can be implemented by local authorities.

With this issue, Martin Hingley concludes his fruitful collaboration with the journal. He has been called to take on more time-demanding responsibilities in his University and he decided to step back from the Editorial Board. The editors and the SIEA Presidential Board are very grateful for his dedication. Starting from the next issue, we welcome Sedef Akgüngör (Dokuz Eylül Üniversitesi, Turkey) as a new Associate Editor. She was already a member of the Scientific Advisory Board and has already joined our team, collaborating to manage manuscripts in the pipeline. We are grateful for her availability to offer her expertise for the benefit of the journal and its community of readers, authors, and reviewers. We are also extremely grateful to the reviewers who helped us to evaluate the papers submitted to *Economia agro-alimentare / Food Economy* during the year 2018; the complete list is available at the end of this issue.

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