

Editorial

In this issue of *Economia agro-alimentare / Food Economy*, we feature five regular Articles, plus nine Articles and one Note included in the Special Issue “Network and networks: the contribution to agri-food and rural areas”. We also feature one regular Note. The topics covered span from the analysis of the Agri-food industry organisation to the management of supply chain relationship, from the economic effects of environmental changes to the history of marketing.

The article “Community-Based Cooperatives as an innovative partnership to contrast inner areas decline” by Luigi Mastronardi, Vincenzo Giaccio, and Luca Romagnoli, addresses a theme of high relevance for studies on local rural development and agri-food systems: the role of Community-Based Cooperatives in contributing to the sustainable development of Italian rural and inner areas. Findings reveal that this original collective initiative can support the transition towards an innovative organisation of local economies by providing essential services to the whole local community (farms, firms and population), and suggest a reconsideration of the current public policies.

Antonio Tulone, Antonino Galati, Salvatore Lupo, Salvatore Tinervia, and Maria Crescimanno in their paper “What are the effects of sea warming on the fishing industry?” aim to evaluate the effect of sea warming on the level of capture production of small pelagic fish (*pesce azzurro*) in the Italian fishing industry. The empirical analysis reveals a negative impact of sea warming on the fish capture production, and it draws possible policy and managerial implications of such findings.

Stefano Ciliberti, Gaetano Martino, Angelo Frascarelli, and Gabriele Chiodini in their paper “Contractual arrangements in the Italian durum wheat supply chain: the impacts of the ‘Fondo grano duro’” investigates the impact of written contracts on coordination of decisions in the durum wheat market. The Fund was established in 2016 to provide financial support and to favour the spread of contracts along the pasta supply chain. Using a Transaction

Cost Economics theoretical framework and a multiple case-study research approach, the authors identify and describe the interpreted and optional elements of the contracts. The authors conclude that the Fund can marginally contribute to building trust between farmers and industrial companies.

In the article “Price volatility and risk management: the case of rice in the EU”, by Alessandro Banterle and Daniela Vandone, the authors analyse the rice market and the product’s high price-volatility over the last ten years. The Authors aim at identifying strengths and weaknesses of financial-risk management and focusing the analysis on innovative insurance products. They highlight issues in creating revenue insurance products for rice farmers in the EU, with a specific focus on the Italian market. The Authors conclude that the most critical issue remains the high level of the premium for insurers. Public intervention can help in reducing its level, providing a specific framework in which support is provided to farmers.

In the article “Network Contracts in the Italian agri-food industry: determinants and spatial patterns” Corrado Ievoli, Angelo Belliggiano, Danilo Marandola, Giuseppe Pistacchio, Luca Romagnoli analyse the use of Network contracts (NCs) in Italy as a tool to promote SMEs’ competitiveness and innovation. They highlight the prevalence of horizontal aggregations over vertical ones and conclude that this instrument can be beneficial to the Italian agri-food system. This article addresses a topic relevant also for the following Special Issue.

The Special Issue “Network and networks: the contribution to agri-food and rural areas” follows the regular articles and constitutes the bulk of this publication. We are grateful to the guest editors Lucia Briamonte, Roberto Henke, and Alessandro Monteleone, who set up the call on a very up-to-date subject, managed the submission and review process and finally selected nine Articles and one Note. The guest editorial “Network and networks: the contribution to agri-food and rural areas” introduces the special issue and puts the articles in the framework of the theme.

Finally, for the section “Notes and Documents” Francesco Casadei proposes the paper “Per una storia degli studi di marketing in Italia: note e appunti tra editoria e università [For a history of Marketing studies in Italy: notes between publishing and higher education]”. The author analyses the historical development of the marketing discipline in Italy, specifically focusing on the academia and the publishing sectors.

In line with the journal’s policy and its internationally oriented aims and scope, we publish all but one of the papers in this issue in the English language. Although in this issue most of the authors have an Italian affiliation we also feature international authors, namely from Germany and Armenia, and the range of the analysis spans from local to international.

We remind again that the current Volume 21 of our journal will be the last one using the traditional academic publishing model. Starting from the year 2020, the journal *Economia agro-alimentare / Food Economy* will convert to an Open Access model. The publisher FrancoAngeli Edizioni is now implementing the new submission management tool and the manuscript submitted from now on will fall into the new publishing policy. Manuscripts submitted by contributors who are not members of SIEA will be subject to an article-processing charge (APC) to be paid after the paper is accepted and before the article is processed for publication by the publisher. We are confident that switching to the Open Access model will help our authors to be read more widely and thus to have a more significant impact.

As usual, the Editorial Board encourages authors to contribute by submitting their research work to the journal. We also encourage our audience to consider submitting a special issue proposal on topics related to emerging societal issues.

We once again acknowledge and appreciate the support of our community of authors, reviewers, and readers, and we hope in continued engagement.

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