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Editorial

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Volume 23 of *Economia agro-alimentare / Food Economy* features four regular Articles and two Notes, all written in English. The authors are affiliated with Institutions based in Italy, Spain, Germany, France, and the USA. The range of the analysis spans from local to global and covers several sectors of the food economy, such as wine, olive oil, beef. The topics span from wine consumer behaviour and preference to firms' economic performance, from value chain analysis to land ownership models and from promotion tools for disadvantaged areas to the relationships between climate and trade.

Isabella Procidano, Christine Mauracher, and Marco Valentini, in their article "Consumers' perception of Prosecco wine packaging: A pilot study in Padua and Milan", analyse the preference of consumers for graphical elements in wine labels. They present a study based on a face-to-face questionnaire and a preference ranking experiment in which wine consumers compare three bottles of Prosecco wine of the same brand. The data are analysed using the rank-ordered logit model. Results confirm that wine consumers have diversified preferences depending on several factors and that a traditional style for bottle and label is often preferred over innovative solutions.

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Silvia Andrés González-Moralejo, Mildrey García Cortés, and Juan Francisco López Miquel present the article “Are small and medium-size firms in food industry profitable? Explaining differences in their performance: The case of Valencia Region”, which aims to identify the main components of economic and financial profitability in the Valencia food industry in the period from 2006 to 2015. They use multivariate methods applied to micro-panel data from the SABI balance sheet database available by Bureau van Dijk. They considered both the Return on Assets and Return on Equity as the profitability measures of interest. The explanatory variables include financial and structural firm characteristics and macro-economic, location, and industry-related factors. The results show that the firm characteristics are by far the most important determinants, even though the other factors also influence profitability.

In their article titled “The economic and environmental sustainability of extra virgin olive oil supply chains: An analysis based on food miles and value chains”, Biancamaria Torquati, Lucio Cecchini, Chiara Paffarini, and Massimo Chiorri present an assessment of the environmental sustainability of extra-virgin olive oil (EVOO) supply chains. They consider environmental sustainability, measured as the carbon footprint generated by the food miles (FMs), estimated through a life cycle assessment (LCA) procedure. The economic sustainability was assessed using the added value generated in each exchange along the supply chain. The data are derived from purchase diaries maintained by a small purposeful sample of households and a value chain reconstruction based on information from local industry operators in Umbria. The results show that sustainability differences between the EVOO supply chains exist, but higher sustainability is not always associated with local supply chains or higher prices. Despite the few exceptions, however, short and local supply chains, both conventional and organic, tend to allow a more equitable distribution of the added value and a lower transport-related environmental impact.

In the article “Mountain beef and wine: Italian consumers’ definitions and opinions on the mountain labelling-scheme”, Mikael Oliveira Linder, Katia Laura Sidali, and Gesa Busch study Italian consumers’ opinions regarding beef and wine produced in mountain areas as well as their opinions concerning the new mountain labelling scheme. These topics are particularly relevant in the current debate on SDGs and Agenda 2030, as we know that mountain farming is characterised mainly by family and small-scale agriculture, which plays an important role in supporting sustainability and promoting food security and economic development. Thus, adding value to the mountain beef production using the mountain label may positively impact the economy of rural areas and represent an interesting market opportunity for rural communities. By adopting a qualitative approach,

the authors collected many observations of the interactions in different occasions between consumers on the one hand and beef and wine producers on the other hand. They also administered focus group discussions and semi-structured interviews with beef and wine consumers. Among several outputs of their research, it is worth underlining that consumer expectations about mountain products indicate a higher interest for healthier and ethical products and a strong association of these products with credence attributes. Furthermore, they emphasise the diverging views and criticisms from different consumer segments on labelling schemes and the potential market niche emerging around the concept of “mountain wine”.

In the Note “Is an alternative to private property durable in agriculture?”, Catherine Macombe analyses the case of the “Foncière Solidaire”, created in France by the association “Terre de Liens” (TDL). This association collectively buys land to lease them to new farmers on a long-term basis, to evaluate whether the system of collective land property can be durable (that is, can be sustained over time) in that context. TDL values are analysed using the grid provided by the so-call Grammar of Justice. The analysis is based on the content analysis of the official communication of the TDL association contained in the TDL website, including the movement’s charter. The author concludes that the values of TDL display the specific features of durable companies, and the “Foncière Solidaire” model could develop strongly with the support of the legislator. Therefore, according to the author, there is a potential for durable collective alternatives to individual ownership of agricultural land if fostered by policy measures.

The last article is a Note by Fabio Gaetano Santeramo, Dragan Miljkovic, and Emilia Lamonaca, titled “Agri-food trade and climate change”, discussing recent issues related to the economic impacts of global climate change on international trade. After a brief discussion of the relationship between climate change and economic development and on the dual linkage between climate change and the agricultural sector, they discuss the two most common approaches used to analyse the relationship between climate and trade that is, panel methodologies and reduced form equations on one side, and simulations of the effects of climate change, based on macro and microdata, in scenarios with and without trade adjustments on the other side. The literature reports mixed results and potentially reflect divergences across countries, where some countries could lose while others could gain from the adaptation process. Less developed countries may face disadvantages and increasing inequality levels. The authors conclude that the research on the effects of climate change on trade and the global value chains should be intensified.

We believe that this issue will offer our readers interesting material to generate more ideas and further research activities.

With this issue, we welcome three new members of the Editorial Board: Alessio Cavicchi, Catherine Chan, and Maro Vlachopoulou. We also welcome the new members of the Scientific Advisory Board for the current year. Altogether, the SAB counts 45 members, including scholars from institutions based in Italy (11), USA (9), International (3), UK (3), Brasil (2), France (2), Germany (2), Albania (1), Austria (1), Belgium (1), Germany & Spain (1), Greece (1), Norway (1), Poland (1), Portugal (1), Republic of Korea (1), Sweden (1), Switzerland (1), The Netherlands (1), UK & Italy (1). The updated full list of SAB members is available in the journal front matter and on the website www.economiaagroalimentare.it. The Editor-in-Chief and the Editorial Board look forward to working with our new Scientific Advisory Board.

We also have some updates regarding the journal's indexing and abstracting. The journal has been accepted in the Directory of Open Access Journals (DOAJ). The journal description is already available at the link <https://doaj.org/toc/1972-4802>, and the access to articles published in the Open Access issues is already active. Starting from January 2021, EBSCO will make available the full text of *Economia agro-alimentare* open access in its Business Source Ultimate database: www.ebsco.com/products/research-databases/business-source-ultimate. The articles' metadata will also be included in all other versions of Business Source (Elite, Premier and Complete). Finally, our publisher FrancoAngeli Edizioni has submitted the application for coverage in the Clarivate Analytics Science Citation Index/ Social Sciences Citation Index and inclusion in Web of Science. We look forward to receiving their evaluation, hoping that the positive outcomes of our continued efforts to make the journal a well-known and respected outlet for high-quality research will be recognised.