

*Fourth Conference of the Italian Association of Agricultural and Applied Economics (AIEEA)
Ancona, June 11-12, 2015*

Innovation, productivity and growth: towards sustainable agri-food production

Call for Papers

In 2015, the World Exposition “*Feeding the planet, energy for life,*” to be held in Milan, will focus the attention of the public and policy makers on the major challenges concerning global food production in the upcoming decades. In particular, the expected sustained growth of world demand for food, feed, and energy raises concerns about the ability of global agricultural production to ensure adequate supply growth, while avoiding major turbulences on agricultural markets and still providing healthy and environmentally safe products.

How these major challenges can be dealt with is, at once, both a political and scientific question. The scientific community is expected to provide rigorous and sound evidence on the nature and size of these challenges and to put forward effective and viable solutions. In this respect, a first major task for agricultural and applied economists is to investigate the actual dynamics of agricultural productivity growth worldwide and the differences emerging between developed and developing countries. Efforts should also be devoted to deepening the available knowledge on the impact of agricultural productivity on overall economic growth and, consequently, on income distribution, food consumption and international trade. Finally, applied economists are asked to investigate which kind of innovations can better contribute to achieving a sustainable increase of agri-food production and which policies and institutional settings may encourage these innovations.

Specifically, in EU context, attention inevitably involves analysis of the Common Agricultural Policy (CAP) and its recent reform. Whereas agricultural innovation and productivity growth allegedly represent some of the key objectives inspiring this reform, a critical review of its actual contents and implementation raises major doubts on its capacity to lead European agriculture in the desired direction.

The fourth AIEEA Conference aims at providing a scientific contribution to these issues by expanding the knowledge base on the fundamentals of agricultural productivity growth and innovation, and also by promoting a critical debate on the underlying theoretical and methodological issues and policy implications.

Specific issues to be addressed include:

- Long-term patterns of worldwide food production and consumption.
- Measuring and explaining agricultural productivity growth and gaps.
- The impact of agricultural productivity growth and innovation on income growth and poverty reduction.

- Sustainable knowledge intensification and innovation in agricultural production.
- Design, implementation and evaluation of policies fostering sustainable agricultural innovation.
- Assessment of social, economic and environmental impacts of new bio-economic production and processes.

AIEEA welcomes the submission of contributions on the topics above. However, the submission of contributions on all agricultural and applied economics topics is encouraged as well.

Submissions

Contribution proposals should be submitted in English through the conference website at www.aieea.org. There are three types of contributions: contributed papers, organized sessions, and posters.

Contributed papers

Participants intending to present a paper are requested to submit an extended abstract (max. 2,000 words) before January 31, 2015. Abstracts should introduce to the topic, describe data and research methodology, discuss theoretical and/or empirical results, provide a list of essential references, and emphasize the paper's potential for generating discussion during the conference

All submitted abstracts will be subject to a blind peer review process. Authors will be notified of paper acceptance by March 6, 2015.

The full version of accepted papers should be submitted by May 15, 2015.

Upon Authors' authorization, the abstracts of accepted papers will be made available on the conference website, and the full text will be posted on *AgEcon Search*

A selection of accepted papers will be considered for publication in a special issue of *Bio-based and Applied Economics*, after going through the journal's standard review process. The deadline for the submission will be June 30, 2015.

Organized sessions

Participants are invited to propose organized sessions primarily, but not exclusively, on topics relevant to the conference themes. Proposals (max 2,000 words) should include the name of the organizer, the session title, the name of contributors, and the title and abstract of each paper. It is suggested that proposed sessions include no more than four papers. Proposals should be submitted by January 31, 2015. Organized session proposals will be subject to a peer review process. Authors will be notified of acceptance by March 6, 2015.

Posters

AIEEA welcomes the submission of posters. Accepted posters will be presented and discussed in dedicated sessions. Participants should submit an abstract (max 500 words) by January 31, 2015. Poster proposals will be subject to a blind peer review process. Authors will be notified of poster acceptance by March 6, 2015.

Presenting author's registration

Authors presenting papers, posters, or organized sessions must register for the conference before May 22, 2015 (failing which the paper/session/poster will be withdrawn from the conference program).

Important deadlines

Abstract submission by authors: **January 31, 2015**

Notification of acceptance to authors: **March 6, 2015**

Full paper/poster submission: **May 15, 2015**

Authors' registration deadline: **May 22, 2015**

Keynote speakers

Mark Rosegrant (IFPRI, USA)

Keith Fuglie (USDA, USA)

Steve McCorriston (University of Exeter, UK)

Davide Viaggi (Università di Bologna, Italy)

Conference Schedule

The pre-conference will be held on June 11, 2015.

The Fourth AIEAA Conference will start at 2.30 PM on Thursday, June 11, 2015 and will end by 5.30 PM on Friday June 12, 2015.

Program Committee

Daniele Moro (Università Cattolica del Sacro Cuore, Italy, *Chair*)

Paola Cardamone (Università della Calabria, Italy)

Roberto Esposti (Università Politecnica delle Marche, Italy)

GianCarlo Moschini (Iowa State University, USA)

Meri Raggi (Università di Bologna, Italy)

Valentina Raimondi (Università di Milano, Italy)

Benedetto Rocchi (Università di Firenze, Italy)

Registration fees

Regular member fee: 150 € (100 € if already member in 2015)

Reduced member fee (Ph.D. students, Postdoc): 50 € (30 € if already member in 2015)

Donor member fee: 200 € (100 € if already member in 2015)

Online registration will be possible on the conference website. Registration fees include 2015 AIEAA membership as well as the conference lunches, the coffee breaks and the social dinner.

Information and contacts

For more updated information and contacts, please refer to the at www.aieaa.org or email aieaa2015@univpm.it