

Presidential Address

This is the first issue of the journal *Bio-based and Applied Economics* (BAE), promoted by the newly funded *Associazione Italiana di Economia Agraria ed Applicata* (Italian Association of Agricultural and Applied Economics). The reasons for the foundation of a new association are rooted in the rapid change over time of the purpose and the methods of scientific research in the field of agriculture and food. The idea of launching a new journal is deeply embedded in the awareness of this change. Accordingly, the journal will seek to contribute to scientific debate in the most cutting edge and innovative areas covered by the disciplines and themes addressed by the association, with a close attention to the developing policy debate and clearly focusing on the international dimension of this debate.

It is not by chance that the new journal is launched almost at the same time as the recent Communication on the bioeconomy released by the EU Commission on “Innovating for Sustainable Growth: A Bioeconomy for Europe”. The discussion on the bioeconomy, now developing exponentially worldwide, allows to make more explicit new challenges and to foster the debate on the sustainable use of biological resources, as well as to explore new dimensions of development and rural economies.

BAE provides a forum for the presentation and discussion of applied research in the field of bio-based sectors and related policies, informing evidence-based decision-making and policy-making. It intends to provide a scholarly source of theoretical and applied studies while remaining widely accessible for non-researchers.

BAE seeks applied contributions on the economics of bio-based industries, such as agriculture, forestry, fishery and food, dealing with any related disciplines, such as resource and environmental economics, consumer studies, regional economics, innovation and development economics. Besides well-established fields of research related to these sectors, BAE aims in particular to explore cross-sectoral, recent and emerging themes characterizing the integrated management of biological resources, bio-based industries and sustainable development of rural areas. Special attention will also be paid to the linkages between local and international dimensions.

This first issue provides a set of review papers on selected ‘hot’ issues in and around the field of the bio-based economy, and economics. Far from being an exhaustive set of papers that shed light on a systematic view of the broad field addressed by the journal,

they are rather teasers that we hope will provide opportunities for thought-provoking discussion and stimulating research.

We sincerely hope this initiative will contribute to boost the debate on the bio-based sectors and will help to move attention from the policy discussion to vanguard advances in the related multiple disciplinary fields.

Prof. Giovanni Cannata

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