

It is with great honor that I have taken the position of Chief Editor for Bio-based and Applied Economics.

In only five years since its foundation BAE, the official journal of the Italian Association of Agricultural and Applied Economics (AIEAA), has regularly published three issues per year and has been indexed in several bibliographic databases, including the Emerging Sources Citation Index (ESCI) of Web of Science and the Scopus database. I wish to take this opportunity to acknowledge the great job made by the previous Chief Editor, Davide Viaggi, and his enthusiasm and dedication to the Journal. Many thanks also to the previous team of Associate Editors for their contribution in establishing the current standard of BAE, and particularly to Alessandro Corsi and Gianluca Stefani, who left the Board.

According to its focus and scope, BAE provides a forum for presentation and discussion of applied research in the field of bio-based sectors and related policies, informing evidence-based decision-making and policy-making. In his Farewell Editorial, Davide Viaggi stressed a number of challenges, relating to the fact that “*bioeconomy economics and policy* is still far from being a well-established discipline”; he also concluded that “the economics of the bioeconomy needs most likely to develop not as an independent research area, but rather in close connection with the more traditional areas of agriculture and food economics”.

Since the beginning, BAE has been pursuing this scope, welcoming contributions from several fields and disciplines, such as resource and environmental economics, consumer studies, regional economics, innovation and development economics, production economics, stimulating cross-fertilization among research fields, pointing-out connections and driving towards a tentative definition of a research field for the bioeconomy. Much more needs to be done, and I will work to maintain and consolidate this peculiar role of BAE, in shaping a new research area.

The new team of Associate Editors is highly qualified to this scope: Pavel Ciaian, Roberto Esposti and Simone Severini have joined Ornella Wanda Maietta and Francesco Mantino. I am truly confident that with their help and expertise in different research fields, and the support and contribution of the staff from Firenze University Press, we will be able to steadily increase the high quality standard of our published articles and even aim to further achievements and diffusion among scholars.

Daniele Moro