

Editorial

With the seventy-seventh volume, the *Rivista di Economia Agraria*, now REA – Italian Review of Agricultural Economics, begins a new season of its illustrious history. Since its foundation, the idea of an enlightened assembly of fathers of the economics discipline, the REA has been a point of reference for researchers, political decision-makers and for those who care about Italian agriculture and rural life.

In these seventy-seven years, the Journal has created and explored new horizons of knowledge and has proposed itself as an ideal ground for a fruitful and loyal scientific comparison. In this long period, the interests and ambits of reference of agricultural economics have altered significantly: the frontiers of analysis have extended from the farm to the supply chain, up to the modelling of consumer behaviour; new functions and social responsibilities have been assigned to agriculture; we have witnessed market globalization and the commodity standardisation of many types of products; farming families have diversified their occupations and sources of income. In terms of methods, innovative approaches have been introduced that allow increasingly wide and complex information sources to be managed, the principles of the neoclassical paradigm have come under discussion and new viewpoints proposed for the formulation and interpretation of the problems of economics. New social and territorial themes have captured the interests of a growing number of researchers; increasing attention has been paid to silviculture and fish-farming; we have realised the dignity and value of the work of farmers and Italian and foreign manual labour and the role of human capital in agricultural innovation and development; the need has arisen to reinstate in an ethical dimension the positive and regulatory analysis of activities that, like those in the primary sector, satisfy basic needs and operate on natural and biological resources.

In these seventy-seven years, the REA has anticipated and accompanied these dynamics, offering outlooks and interpretations based on rigorous scientific premises. In this new season of crisis of consolidated theoretical and political paradigms, undermined by histori-

cally important and universal events such as the health emergency and the insurgence of war, the REA proposes itself more than ever as a place for analysis and discussion, citing its particular vocation for the treatment of subjects of agricultural politics and, more in general, of regulatory economics.

In the meantime, the panorama of scientific communication has also been radically renewed: the entry of multinationals in publishing, the digitalization of the supports to the diffusion of knowledge, the promotion of open access and the introduction of an objective and rigid system of quality certification have concurred to design the current order, based on new sources of competitiveness and value. If, on the one hand, this new context imposes rigour and traceability in the processes of selection of the material to publish, on the other it redefines the equilibrium between supply and demand of research results, in which editorial intermediation acquires new and important responsibilities. In this scenario, the choice of CREA and SIDEA to entrust the publication and diffusion of the REA to an academic publisher – the Florence University Press (FUP) – assumes particular importance.

It is in this scenario that the new Editorial Board of the REA has now been installed. We know that we are starting from a good basis, devised over time by the scientific stance of the Centre of Research for Agricultural Policies and Bioeconomy (CREA) and the Italian Society of Agricultural Economics (SIDEA). These foundations have been consolidated in the recent period due to the work and expertise of the outgoing Editorial Board, from whom we inherit – thanks also to the fruitful partnership with the FUP – an invaluable heritage of successes. Among these, in addition to the accreditation on the Scopus database, the change to digital support and open access is worth mentioning, as it heralds promising prospects of development. Heartfelt thanks go to SIDEA and CREA for their trust in us, while we express our appreciation to the outgoing Board for their impressive work and the important results achieved in objectively difficult times and circumstances.

We shoulder the responsibility of a tradition of authoritativeness and rigour, of a role that tries to connect the research community with other interested individuals, the defence and consolidation of a competitive position in the international scientific publishing panorama, the creation of a free and efficient open space for comparison and shared progress in the discipline. We have many ideas, aimed at the strengthening of the results obtained and consolidation of the role of the REA. First of all, the use of the FUP platform for the standardization of a rigorous protocol of submission, revising, editing and publication of the papers: in this procedure, we trust in the contribution of the referees, which we intend to enhance through a strict selection of qualified and competent names, as well as with the accreditation of their contribution on the online platform ReviewerCredits and the attribution of a recognition to the best referee of the year. In addition, we intend to reduce the length of research papers to a maximum of 8,000 words, publishing those that expand the essential advancement of knowledge. We also want to produce monographic special issues, aimed at the deepening of research subjects of importance and originality and giving space to the research groups of the universities, academies and centres, to the work of the SIDEA and CREA research groups, to the notification of books, events and initiatives of common interest, and the publi-

cation of brief notes and position papers. It is our intention to invite reputable researchers to produce keynote papers, which represent the state of the art of the discipline to the community and stakeholders in relation to the most interesting and innovative subjects and suggest interesting ideas for the development of research.

We are determined to put our experiences in the field with a spirit of service and the curiosity typical of researchers. We have the ambition to become the first choice as method of diffusion of analysis results, to be the first source for finding novelties, ideas, approaches, tools and original results. In short, to be the home of agricultural economists, Italian and foreign. It is a challenge that we tackle with enthusiasm and the certainty of being able to count on the support of CREA and SIDEA, on the expertise and resources of the FUP, but especially on the participation of the community of agricultural economists, in the conviction that we all have our idea of research to be shared and discussed. Now you know that this idea already has a home and a showcase, it only needs to be developed and made available. The REA will think of everything else.

Editorial board

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