

After almost five years from its foundation and four and a half years of active publishing, the *Bio-based and Applied Economics* (BAE) journal has seen a change in its editorial team. I have stepped down as Editor-in-Chief and have been replaced by Daniele Moro. Alessandro Corsi and Gianluca Stefani have also decided to leave the team. Pavel Ciaian, Roberto Esposti and Simone Severini have, for their part, joined Ornella Wanda Maietta and Francesco Mantino as associate editors.

BAE has, from the beginning, been one of the cornerstones of the newly founded Italian Association of Agricultural and Applied Economics. Launching a journal from scratch as a new association has been, as expected, a huge challenge. However, vision and good work have yielded more than satisfactory achievements.

In slightly more than four years, BAE has regularly published ten issues (three issues per year) with a total of 66 papers. Over the past years, BAE has been indexed in a number of major catalogues; in the autumn 2015 it was included in both the Emerging Sources Citation Index (ESCI) of Web of Science and in the Directory of Open Access Journals (DOAJ). In June 2016 it was accepted for inclusion in Scopus.

On behalf of the other past editors I wish to thank the AIEEA, the members of the international editorial board, and the authors, reviewers and readers. This would not have been possible without their assiduous suggestions, support and contributions. We also wish to thank Firenze University Press for their guidance in the difficult waters of scientific publishing and indexing.

Over these years the interest in the scope of the journal has grown steadily. The bioeconomy is becoming a reality and is much better known than it was in 2012. The literature is also gradually taking shape. Yet, the use of the term is still accompanied by a good deal of question marks in terms of scope, definitions and avenues for research (see editorial in this issue). Agriculture, food and resource issues are attracting growing attention as well. In parallel, the logic of research evaluation is putting a lot of pressure on researchers, who are increasingly selective in choosing their target journals and publication strategies.

In short, there are a number of challenges ahead, above all that of matching intellectual ambitions in shaping a new research area with the need for recognition and short-term impact. BAE is, I believe, in an excellent position to face these challenges and, even more so, to use them as opportunities to boost the contribution of our scientific community to the welfare and development of society.

Finally, and again together with past editors, I would like to wish the new editorial team the same exciting and enriching professional and personal growth that we experienced over the past four years.

Davide Viaggi