



# SOCIETAL CHANGES AND THEIR IMPLICATIONS ON AGRI-FOOD SYSTEMS AND RURAL AREAS

Joint Conference of the Slovenian Association of Agricultural Economists, DAES and the Austrian Association of Agricultural Economists, ÖGA

**Date: 22nd-23rd September 2022**

Venue: University of Ljubljana, Biotechnical Faculty,  
Jamnikarjeva 101, Ljubljana, Slovenia

The DAES/ÖGA-Conference invites both scholars and professionals from various domains of agriculture, food systems, natural resource management, and related social sciences, to share their viewpoints and research findings, that contribute to our understanding of the likely implications of the shifts caused by the trends listed below. The ambition of the conference is to serve as **a platform for stimulating professional discussion and searching for context- and area- specific solutions for agri-food systems and rural areas.**

We live in turbulent times, marked by unforeseen economic (economic crisis), ecological (intense weather phenomena), health-related (Covid-19 pandemic) and geo-strategic (trade and political conflicts) upheavals. Together with long-term environmental challenges and demographic trends, they are all resulting in profound and irreversible societal changes. Agri-food systems and rural areas in general are both, being affected by, and contribute towards these societal changes. Below, we are outlining some typical trends and shifts that characterise the current context of the agri-food systems and rural areas.

# Themes

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**Changing food preferences and consumption patterns.** While Covid-19 crisis interrupted some long-term changes in food consumption patterns, it is likely to leave long-term consequences also in the post-pandemic period. Also, the consumers' perception of what is defined as convenience, has changed in pandemic times. But notwithstanding the shocks that our food systems have undergone in last years, the trends in food preferences remain stable. The diversity of our dietary habits is increasing including a growing shift away from animal-based food. Same holds for societal concern about food quality and safety, expanding the scope for quality monitoring and labelling.

**Challenges for changing agri-food production along the whole value chain.** Primary producers, as well as other actors along the agri-food value chain, need to respond to a constantly growing set of challenges. There are also increased production and income risks, posed by the instability in production conditions and the functioning of markets. The society is expecting further improvements of the environmental sustainability of the sector. Digitisation brings opportunities to address some of these challenges, and to improve the performance of the sector. Whether and to what extent the adaptation will take place depends on the ability of its actors to distribute the load evenly and in a coordinated manner.

**Deglobalisation of agricultural trade, increasing importance of short supply chains and local food systems.** Covid-19 pandemic has shown the importance of local markets and local food supply. While the mechanisms that drive international trade might have run out of steam for a while, new opportunities arise. Social desirability of short supply chains, as well as demand for local food, are on the rise. What will be the new balance between international trade and local food systems, remains an open question. Balancing externalities, such as carbon taxation, may further affect these developments.

**Rediscovering and strengthening economic, social and ecological resilience of rural areas.** Confining our stay in the last two years at our place of residence has certainly intensified our awareness of the importance of the resilience of local communities. Accelerated pace of technical and social innovations enables many rural communities to overcome their handicaps due to remoteness or lack of infrastructure. We can learn from successful rural areas that achieving resilience is a multi-dimensional process, where economic aspects of resilience go hand in hand with social and ecological ones.

# Topics

Expected topics to be covered by the **papers** include:

- Quantitative and qualitative assessment of economic, environmental, social and institutional challenges of societal changes for agri-food systems and rural communities.
- Awareness, knowledge and adoption of resilience-enhancing strategies by the actors along the agri-food systems and rural areas as well as the analysis of policies and system characteristics.
- The role of traditional, and novel bio-based value chains in addressing societal changes undergoing agri-food systems and rural areas.
- The role of local, national, and European policies in addressing societal changes undergoing agri-food systems and rural areas.

The Conference will be organised as a mix of keynotes in plenary sessions, and parallel sessions with selected paper and poster presentations, as well as workshop sessions with experts, policy makers and agribusiness actors.

The Conference will benefit from the contributions of two distinguished keynote speakers, Professor **Jutta Roosen** (Technical University Munich), currently acting also as the President of the European Association of Agricultural Economists (EAAE), and **Krijn Poppe**, Emeritus Senior Economist at Wageningen Economic Research.

## Provisional Conference schedule

Thursday, 22 September 2022	
Morning	Conference opening, 2 Plenary sessions on Conference topic
	Lunch
Afternoon	Parallel paper, poster and workshop sessions
Evening	Evening reception, conference awards
Friday, 23 September 2022	
Morning	Parallel paper, poster and workshop sessions
	Take-away lunch for field trip participants
Afternoon	Field trip (optional)

# Call for papers

The seminar invites scholars and professionals with expertise in the fields of agricultural and resource economics, agri-food business, sustainability, institutional economics, policy assessment and any other field referring to the topics listed above. In addition, any other current topic related to agricultural economics, rural areas as well as rural society is also warmly welcome. Short papers from the conference will be electronically published and made available to the wider audience in electronic proceedings.

As the Conference is also a networking event of agriculture and resource economics experts and practitioners from Austria and Slovenia, the Programme Committee warmly encourages proposals for **workshop sessions** on topics of wider relevance for our community. Proposals for workshop sessions should be sent to [oeqa\\_tagung@boku.ac.at](mailto:oeqa_tagung@boku.ac.at).

Upon the invitation from the Programme Committee, authors of selected short papers will be given an opportunity to expand their works to full papers. Full papers will be considered for a publication in the Austrian Journal of Agricultural Economics and Rural Studies, or Q Open, the EAAE journal.

## Important deadlines for authors are the following:

- Short paper submission: 22nd April 2022 - **extended to 06th May 2022**
- Submission of workshop session proposals: 22nd April 2022 - **extended to 06th May 2022**
- Author notification: 14th June 2022
- Submission of revised contributions (short papers, workshop sessions): 26th June 2022

Authors are invited to submit short papers prepared along the [recommended template](#) (in .docx format) to [oeqa\\_tagung@boku.ac.at](mailto:oeqa_tagung@boku.ac.at).

# Programme Committee

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- Luka Juvančič, University of Ljubljana (Chair)
- Jochen Kantelhardt, Boku (Co-chair)
- Theresia Oedl-Wieser, BAB
- Emil Erjavec, University of Ljubljana
- Michael Eder, Boku
- Andreas Niedermayr, Boku
- Črtomir Rozman, University of Maribor

## Registration

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For presenters: **4th July 2022**

By registering to 4th July 2022, the authors confirm the inclusion of their contributions (short papers, workshop sessions) to the Conference Programme, as well as the Proceedings.

After this date, the programme will not alter, although registration will remain available for Conference participants.

Registration fee for Conference participants is 100 Euro. The fee includes lunch (22nd September 2022), welcome reception with a dinner, coffee breaks and conference materials. Additional fee of 40 Euro applies for an (optional) Conference field trip on Friday 23rd September 2022. We kindly ask you to pay the registration fee and the fee for the field trip (optional) to the following DAES account:

Beneficiary: DRUŠTVO AGRARNIH EKONOMISTVO SLOVENIJE

Adress: Hacquetova ulica 17, 1000 Ljubljana, Slovenija

VAT: 23765526

IBAN: SI56 0201 1025 5413 430

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