



ICABR News

COMING SUMMER 2024: The 28th ICABR Annual Conference

ICABR Conference is a global forum for scholars and practitioners to exchange knowledge on the technological, economic and policy factors that shape bioeconomy innovation.

The 28th ICABR Annual Conference will take place June 11 - 14 in Ravello, Italy with a focus on the themes of *The Role of Agriculture and Increased Productivity, Climate Change Mitigation and Sustainable Food System Growth*.

Agriculture is facing the triple challenge of providing adequate, affordable, safe and nutritious food for the growing population, providing livelihoods all along the food value chain and doing so while increasing the sector's sustainability and contributing to combating climate change. Meeting these challenges will require innovations that improve crop productivity, as well as contributing to a circular bioeconomy.

With global agriculture tasked with higher sustainable food production, without lowering profitability, policies to incentivize greater investment into productivity increases will be fundamentally important. Additionally, risk appropriate regulations will be needed to encourage the development of efficient food and bioindustry food chains as well as mitigation and adaptation to climate change. To meet these multiple goals, policies governing the development and spread of innovations will be needed to ensure social benefits are maximized from these innovations, while ensuring excessive regulatory burdens do not constrict innovation pipelines and supply chains. Farmers consistently require access to innovative technologies that increase yields and income, reduce inputs and improve soil health while protecting the environment.

Call for Submissions to the 28th ICABR Conference

(Submission deadline: November 30, 2023; notice of acceptance: December 20, 2023).

The 28th ICABR Conference invites submission of abstracts for research papers, participant panels, posters and symposia that address innovative technologies that increase yields and income, reduce inputs and improve soil health while protecting the environment. aspects of

1. *The Role of Productivity Increases*

- Determining to what extent declining investments in R&D, climate change and the environment and regulations which limit the adoption of new technologies are contributing to productivity declines
- The impact of productivity growth on climate change and the circular economy
- Agricultural productivity growth contribution to structural transformation in today's low income countries

ICABR 2024 Keynote Speakers

The 28th ICABR Conference will feature **Carolyn Fischer** among keynote and plenary speakers.



Carolyn is Research Manager of the [Sustainability and Infrastructure Team](#) in the *Development Research Group of the World Bank* and was appointed professor of environmental economics at *Vrije Universiteit Amsterdam*. [Read more](#)

- Improving measurement of research, innovation and productivity
2. **Technology Availability for Increased Productivity and Climate Change Mitigation**
 - The present and potential impact research tools and innovations have on productivity and the environment
 - Public perceptions regarding gene editing and increased agricultural digitization
 - Potential contribution of technologies to nutrition and health
 - AI potential contributions to enhance productivity across supply value chains
 - Data protection measures to avoid the abuse of technologies
 3. **Policies for Improving Sustainable Food System Growth**
 - Reversing the declines in national public sector R&D investments and funding for international agricultural research institutions
 - One-Health concept adoption and potential improvement of the efficiency and funding of food and agricultural research
 - Policy incentives and regulatory changes required to increase private sector innovation investments
 - Policies to encourage development of efficient and innovative supply chains
 - Policies to complement productivity growth to improve nutrition and health and reduce poverty
 - Improving quantification of regulatory barriers by means of metrics and indicators
 - The economic and social costs from excessive regulatory burdens

ICABR 2024 Keynote Speakers

The 28th ICABR Conference will feature **Douglas Gollin**, Jason P. and Chloe Epstein Professor of Economics at Tufts University. His research focuses broadly on economic development and growth, with an emphasis on the structural transformations that accompany the growth process. He has particular interests in agricultural productivity and technology.



From 2012-17, he chaired the Standing Panel on Impact Assessment (SPIA) of the CGIAR. In that role he designed and led independent assessments of global public investments in agricultural science. He currently serves on the Research Advisory Group for the United Kingdom's aid program.

Submit proposals and see the full program of the 28th ICABR Annual Conference at:

<https://icabr.net/call-for-abstract-submissions-2024/>, <https://icabr.net/>

COMING SOON:**USDA Agricultural Outlook Forum (February 15-16, 2024)**

USDA's 100th Annual Agricultural Outlook Forum, "**Cultivating the Future**" will take place on February 15-16, 2024, at the Crystal City Gateway Marriott in Arlington, Virginia. Link here for more

information: <https://www.usda.gov/oc/ag-outlook-forum>

**The United Arab Emirates will host the 28th Conference of the Parties to the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change in Dubai (November 30 – December 12, 2023) Location: Dubai, United Arab Emirates**

During COP-28, the **Technology and Innovation Hub** will take place.



The focus will be on the enabling role of technology, innovation, and entrepreneurship in tackling climate change, on the role of technology in reducing the environmental footprint of food and water systems and the impact of climate on food and water security. Day 10 of the two week dedicated programme will examine technology solutions driving sustainable agriculture practices and water management. It will also explore the need for policies that enable sustainable growth of food and water systems. [Read more](#)

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Recent ICABR Events

SITES (Italian Association of Economic Development) Annual Conference 2023 (Naples 14, 15 and 16 September 2023)

Società Italiana
di Economia dello Sviluppo



The exposome and its implications for research and policy actions

Persistence and Change: The new challenges for economic development

Culture, geography, and institutions are factors influencing economic development and growth with remarkable and persistent effects over time and across generations. In unstable environments, however, such “factors of persistence” may also change rapidly by adapting to the evolving social, political, and geographical contexts.

Recently, the global economy is experiencing a period of high instability with continuous changes in the social, political, and geographic environment. Increasing inequalities, climate change, conflicts, health emergencies, financial and energy crises, international trade, and migration are important factors affecting the environment and driving rapid changes in institutions, culture, and geography. Understanding the direction of these changes and the factors affecting this process is of paramount importance to develop adequate strategies for governing societies and assuring the economic development and prosperity of global economy.

The Biomonitor Project



The EU funded [BioMonitor](#) project will be featured in the forthcoming issue of [EuroChoices](#). BioMonitor addresses the information gap in bioeconomy research by re-structuring its existing data and modelling framework. The ultimate goal of the project is to get a clearer picture of how bioeconomy affects our lives. Many of the results of the BioMonitor project have been presented at previous ICABR conferences and have been picked-up by e.g. the [European Commission](#), the Biden Administration, and [IICA](#).

Types of Submissions for the Conference

1. Selected papers

The 2024 ICABR conference is seeking abstracts for papers that address how economic sustainability benefits from innovations enhance productivity. Abstracts addressing the key themes highlighted are invited for submission.

Abstracts should be up to 400 words in length and be structured. They must include the following headings:

Context – describe the relevance of the subject matter and how it relates to the call for abstracts.

Objectives – describe the objective or research focus of the paper.

Methods – describe the method(s) utilized in the paper.

Results – summarize the key results of the research.

Implications – describe why are the findings important.

2. Impact Assessment Case Studies

The adoption of innovations, such as genetically modified crops, gene-edited crops, artificial intelligence, autonomous technologies such as sensors and drones and others, have all impacted adopters, markets and societies. Case studies should assess a discrete technology, within a defined setting, providing for a robust assessment of the resulting impacts. Case study submissions should clearly outline what is being assessed, what the control is, the time frame and data collection method.

ICABR new secretary general

Diego M. Macall is a second year PhD student at the Institut de Ciència i Tecnologia Ambientals (ICTA-UAB). Diego's BA is from the Catholic University of El Salvador and his M.Sc. from the University of Saskatchewan. He has co-authored 14 peer-reviewed articles and written multiple blogs on issues relating to food and agricultural policy. He is a founding member of the Salvadoran biotechnology network. Diego has been helping organize the ICABR conference since 2019.



3. Panel Proposals and Organized Sessions

Submissions need to identify the focus and objective of the panel or the session, as well as the panelists/speakers. Abstracts of up to **400** words should be submitted. For organized sessions abstracts for the papers to be presented need to be submitted as well.

Presentation Formats

Lightning round presentations will be a key part of the 2024 conference, with many presentations given in this format. All graduate student presentations will be presented in this format and others may be as well. Presenters will be given 5 minutes to present their paper, which will be followed by a lunch hour poster session where presenters are expected to be available to discuss their posters.

Bioeconomy is a catalyst for agrifood systems transformation to greater sustainability

Rome, October 10, 2023



Promising future

Bioeconomy's can be a catalyst for addressing the current climate crisis and achieving global agrifood sustainability through a more efficient and responsible management of our natural resources. The term **bioeconomy**, as defined by the [Global Bioeconomy Summit of 2020](#), as "the production, utilization, conservation, and regeneration of biological resources, including related knowledge, science, technology, and innovation, to provide sustainable solutions (information/products/processes/services) across all economic sectors and enable a transformation to a sustainable economy."

FAO sees the bioeconomy as providing nutritious, safe food to a growing population, sustainable development opportunities and new jobs while reducing environmental harm and waste. Its potential goes beyond cutting GHG emissions and restoring biodiversity. It opens new opportunities for green development and jobs in agriculture and other sectors, bolstering food security and nutrition, rural livelihoods, lives of Indigenous Peoples and local communities and innovation at all society levels. One [projection](#) estimates a resource-efficient, circular bioeconomy could be worth as much as \$7.7 trillion by 2030.

FAO is advocating for the inclusion of bioeconomy in global frameworks on sustainable development, food security and nutrition, climate, biodiversity, and the environment; the development of further global metrics on bioeconomy sustainability to scale up public and private investments and accelerate trade in bio-based products; and for building a global and inclusive bioeconomy coalition.

[Read more](#)

Publication Opportunities for the Bioeconomy

The **World Bank's Research Department** invites submission of papers featuring innovative research on all aspects of land governance and its links to shared economic growth, resilience, and poverty reduction for presentation at a research track during the 2024 World Bank Land Conference that will be held May 13-17, 2024 at World Bank Headquarters in Washington, DC, USA.

Full research papers of between 6,000 and 10,000 words or, for analysis in progress on an exceptional basis, 1,000 word abstracts that contain a description of methodology, data used, and expected results, should be submitted through the [paper submission and registration website](#). Deadline for paper submission: Dec. 3, 2023, Communication of paper acceptance Jan. 6, 2024.

Recent Bioeconomy Publications

Report on IFAD's Development Effectiveness (RIDE)

The RIDE looks at both immediate results - for example, how many poor rural people gained access to financial services - as well as medium-term results – such as the sustainability of benefits over time. It also looks at internal processes and how efficiently they support effective operations. In addition to providing the latest data, the RIDE also touches on the key reasons behind the achievement or under-achievement of targets – thus offering a comprehensive assessment of the organization's performance.

Link here for more information: <https://www.ifad.org/en/ride-report/>

Mubareka, S., Giuntoli, J., Sanchez Lopez, J., Lasarte Lopez, J., M'barek, R., Ronzon, T., Renner, A. and Avraamides, M., Trends in the EU bioeconomy, EUR 31434 EN, Publications Office of the European Union, Luxembourg, 2023, ISBN978-92-68-00295-7, [doi:10.2760/835046](https://doi.org/10.2760/835046),

Gardossi, L., Philp, J., Fava, F. Winickoff, D., D'Aprile, L., Dell'Anno, B., Jørgen Marvik, O., Lenzi, A. Bioeconomy national strategies in the G20 and OECD countries: Sharing experiences and comparing existing policies <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.bioeco.2023.100053>

Bioeconomy Educational Materials

Wageningen University & Research offers MOOCs, making academic education available and accessible for everyone. Typical WUR themes are among others: food and nutrition, environmental sciences, smart agriculture and biobased production. <https://www.wur.nl/en/education-programmes/education-for-professionals/biotechnology-and-chemistry/bioeconomy-1.htm>

Bioeconomy Awards & Fellowships

Bioeconomy Awards

2024 Eni Award – Young Researcher of the Year Prize As part of the **Eni Award 2024 edition**, Eni - global energy company, present in 68 countries, awards two PhD thesis defended in Italian universities during 2023 or 2022 with reference to the following themes.

Sustainable and resilient nature in a constantly evolving climate change scenario, through improved "nature-based" solutions, preservation and restoration of natural capital, capable of accelerating the transition to the circular economy, bio-economy and business models based on environmental sustainability, in accordance with the perspective "One Health - Planetary Health".

Renewable energy and energy storage. New technologies for the production of H2 (Blue, Green and Turquoise Hydrogen). Capture, use and sequestration of carbon dioxide (CCUS), as well as energy efficiency as a bridge to the decarbonisation of the energy system.

Bioeconomy Fellowship Opportunities

Chair, Department of Agricultural, Food and Resource Economics - School of Environmental and Biological Science (SEBS) at Rutgers, the State University of New Jersey, invites applications and nominations for Chair of the Department of Agricultural, Food and Resource Economics (DAFRE). We seek a scholar with a proven track record in research, exceptional leadership ability, and a deep passion for innovative and inclusive education and outreach. New Jersey and the New York Metropolitan area have one of the largest concentrations of U.S. food firms, pharmaceuticals firms, and financial markets in the world. Our location is 45 minutes to New York City, a 2-hour train ride to Washington DC, and half an hour to the world through the Newark Liberty Airport. Application Link: <https://jobs.rutgers.edu/postings/213832>

Lorenza A. Lorenzetti I am a research fellow at Università Cattolica in Milan, Italy, and received my Ph.D. from Università di Trento, Italy. I have been a teaching fellow at Università di Trento, Fondazione Università di Mantova, and Università Cattolica Milan and Brescia. I recently started cooperating with Università di Parma. My current work focuses on policy economics, development economics, environmental economics, and agricultural economics. I met the ICABR group in 2017. I am now in charge of the ICABR Newsletter.



FFAR Fellows Program

The FFAR Fellows Program was established to provide professional development and career guidance to the next generation of food and agriculture scientists. By providing early career support to graduate students, the program cultivates supportive relationships between graduate students and industry, government, and NGO peers to equip students with the skills needed to prepare future leaders for food and agriculture. Applications due February 2024. Please visit <https://ffarfellows.org/apply/> for complete application details.

PhD Fellowships

- The Forest Biomaterial Department at North Carolina State University is seeking candidates for a **PhD Fellowship** to do research in biobased products through an awarded USDA grant titled, *Preparing Diverse and Rural Students and Teachers to Meet the Challenges in the Bioproducts and Bioenergy Industry*. <https://grad.ncsu.edu/programs/how-to-apply/>
- **PhD Student (m/f/d) in Sustainability and Life Cycle Assessment for Cellular Agriculture**. [Technical University of Munich](#)
- **PhD researcher (f/m/d) electronics, agriculture, biology**. [Leibniz | Germany](#)
- **PhD student (f/m/d) Department of Forest Economics and Sustainable Land Use Planning**. [Georg August University of Göttingen](#)

Please share other opportunities with the ICABR community by emailing: icabr2024@conftool.com

Careers in the Bioeconomy

Open Career Opportunities

Postdoctoral Fellow in Sustainability Analysis for a Circular Bioeconomy Transition. [NTNU Norwegian University of Science and Technology](#) | [Norway](#)

Postdoctoral Fellow in Sustainability Analysis for a Circular Bioeconomy Transition. [Norwegian University Of Science & Technology - Ntnu](#) | [United Kingdom](#)

Senior Research Fellow, MaREI Centre / Environmental Research Institute. [University College Cork](#) | [Ireland](#)

Research Fellow, Centre for the Public Awareness of Science. [Australian National University \(ANU\)](#)

Post-Doctoral Fellow in the Economics of Climate-Smart Agriculture. [University of Saskatchewan](#) | [Canada](#)

S.V. Ciriacy-Wantrup Postdoctoral Fellowships In Natural Resource Economics and Political Economy. [University of California, Berkeley](#) | [United States](#)

Assistant or Associate Professor - Agricultural Economics, Food Markets, and Agribusiness. [University of Connecticut](#) | [United States](#)

Chair, Department of Agricultural, Food and Resource Economics. [Rutgers University](#) | [United States](#)

Postdoctoral Scholar-Environmental Sciences-Department of Agricultural and Resource Economics. [University of California, Berkeley](#). [United States](#)

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CALIFORNIA, BERKELEY**Institutional membership**

The institutional membership is open to associations, and public and private institutions which operate in fields connected with the aims of the Consortium or which pursue the aims and materially support the activities of the Consortium or individual initiatives promoted by the Consortium, by providing human, organisational or financial resources.

The benefits of institutional membership include:

- Designation of two staff members to receive an annual membership;
- Recognition at the annual ICABR conference;
- Two non-transferable registration for institutional staff to the ICABR Annual Conference;
- The right to post free announcements in the contributed pages of the ICABR website at no charge;
- The right to post announcements and articles in the *ICABR Quarterly* newsletter;
- Listing on the ICABR website;
- Proposing an organized session at ICABR annual conference.

The annual institutional membership fee will be 2500,00 Euro.



About ICABR

The Consortium was established to bring together international scholars in the field of bioeconomy studies – its partners come from across the globe and include leaders in agricultural and economic development, natural resources management, environmental policy, risk communication and other fields.

The overarching aims of the ICABR include:

(a) contribute to the advancement of knowledge and understanding of nature and human behavior in the field of economics and biological sciences with special regard to natural resources, agriculture and the bioeconomy;

(b) encourage and improve communication between teachers, researchers and students in the advancement of knowledge and understanding of nature and human behavior in the field of economics and biological sciences with special regard to natural resources, agriculture and bioeconomy; and

(c) develop and encourage cooperation between university level teaching institutions and research institutions.

For more information:

Please visit the ICABR website at <https://icabr.net/>
Or contact icabr2024@conftool.com for more information.

The Pumpkin Experience

Picking a Jack-o'-lantern is more than just the pumpkin – it's the patch! Following the pandemic years where we couldn't directly interact with others, [the experience matters](#), and consumers frequently overlook the grocery store pumpkin in favor of one that can be hand-picked from the vine. Such programs are advantageous to the farmer, who can expect [up to five times more per pound](#) with less labour than if their squash were sold through wholesale. In situations where growing conditions have been unfavourable and the income from pumpkins is likely to be lower than expected, investing in the [customer experience](#) may cushion financial loss. The single trip for a "U-Pick" type pumpkin can also be an [opportunity for farms to highlight other commodities](#) on site, either generating more revenue from that one visit with additional seasonal experiences (i.e. corn mazes, hay rides) and other farm commodities (i.e. baked goods, crafts, produce), or creating a repeat-customer. The further inclusion of social media to document seasonal experiences ensures pumpkins will remain a firm tradition for Canadian Octobers.

Read more: <https://saifood.ca/halloween-pumpkins/>



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