

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 Bioeconomy Transformation in Transition: Past Successes, Current Challenges, and Future Prospects”



ICABR 2026 in Ravello: thank you to our global community

ICABR at 30: Celebrating Our History and Looking to the Future

The 30th ICABR Conference in Ravello was a very special occasion for our community. Marking three decades of ICABR, the conference was outstanding in terms of participation, scientific contributions and the breadth of activities taking place throughout the event. A rich programme of presentations and discussions, together with numerous opportunities for formal and informal exchange, made the anniversary conference a particularly lively gathering and a fitting celebration of thirty years of ICABR.

The anniversary was also an opportunity to recognize individuals who have made an exceptional contribution to ICABR and its community. During the conference, three Honorary Memberships were awarded, adding a particularly meaningful moment to the celebration of the Consortium's history.

At the same time, the 30th anniversary provided an opportunity not simply to celebrate the past, but also to reflect on it. Work is currently under way on the ICABR 30th Anniversary Volume, which will bring together contributions reflecting on the evolution of the research areas, ideas and challenges that have accompanied the Consortium over its thirty-year history. A chapter reconstructing the history of ICABR is already available on the [ICABR website](#).

The conference also allowed members to become better acquainted with the new ICABR Board. Board members were invited to tell the story of how they first "met" ICABR and how their relationship with the Consortium developed over time. These personal accounts offered a more informal way for the new Board to introduce itself to ICABR members—not simply through institutional roles, but through the experiences, research interests and intellectual connections that brought each member into the ICABR community.

The closing day naturally turned from thirty years of history towards the strategic way forward. The discussion highlighted several issues that will be important as ICABR enters its fourth decade. In particular, multidisciplinary emerged as an increasingly important feature of the research questions ICABR seeks to address, while communication was identified as an area in which the Consortium can strengthen its capacity to bring its research, expertise and ideas to audiences beyond the academic community.

Another important milestone associated with this year's conference was the first edition of the SITES–ICABR Summer School, held in connection with the Ravello meeting. The Summer School brought together younger researchers, established scholars and experts and combined substantive discussion with methodological training. Its first edition represents an important investment in the next generation of researchers and an opportunity to further strengthen the links between ICABR's scientific community, new research questions and new methodological approaches.

The Ravello meeting therefore represented much more than an anniversary celebration. It brought together ICABR's past, present and future: thirty years of intellectual exchange and collaboration, an exceptionally rich conference, recognition of those who have contributed to the Consortium, a new Board, the first SITES–ICABR Summer School, and a collective discussion about the directions ICABR should pursue in the years ahead.

Thank you once again to everyone who travelled to Ravello and helped make the 30th ICABR Conference such a memorable and appreciated event. We look forward to continuing this global dialogue in the next ICABR initiatives and the 2027 conference in Berkeley!

Interviews & Comments

from ICABR 2026 Ravello

In A Word: SPECTACULAR!

Ben Durham, Department of Science, Technology and Innovation, South Africa.

"I am a member of various global initiatives that are seeking to drive global bioeconomy development. I'm participating in the ICABR for the first time this year in 2026.

Firstly, the setting is absolutely SPECTACULAR but very complementary to the work and the thinking and the discussions that are happening at ICABR which are SPECTACULAR.

What I particularly note is that it's not just an academic exercise where you are pushing the boundaries of knowledge, this is very much applied. This is looking much more focusedly on the intersection between academia, business and government and how things can be made to improve; how the situation can improve with respect to bioeconomy meaning sustainable and circular, how they can be implemented in that fashion. (...) A very broad range of topics have been presented here and I've learnt an enormous amount. But what I'm really pleased to see is that there is actually progress that's happening in terms of thinking on how we can best apply the technologies in a way that will reduce carbon footprints and move us towards sustainability."

- A research question we should address that we haven't still in the future?

"I have suggested is that we look at key areas that are under development and try and herd academics towards contributing from a multidisciplinary perspective, towards finding a solution or recommendations or guidance to stakeholders of the bioeconomy outside. So we really need to look at key themes that could make a more significant difference and I certainly will be encouraging the ICABR to try and bring emphasis to certain points."

"The ICABR Conference in Ravello was an **outstanding experience**. It was inspiring to be surrounded by so many leading researchers and senior professionals in the field, with plenty of opportunities to exchange ideas and engage in stimulating discussions. The conference provided an excellent environment for networking, developing new collaborations, and gaining fresh perspectives for future research. The organization was impeccable, and the entire staff was always available, supportive, and attentive to the participants' needs, making the event both productive and enjoyable."

S. Puleo, Phd candidate,
Università di Milano, Italy

We need a SHIFT In MINDSET

Marta Gómez, Senior Bioeconomy Expert at FAO

(..)"The momentum around the bioeconomy is real. It is growing across countries and regions around the world, and more and more governments are putting the bioeconomy on their agendas and asking FAO for support in developing strategies, visions, action plans and concrete projects.

We need to respond to this momentum by turning science into policy and projects, and by developing indicators that countries can actually use. The challenge is to move from data and scientific research to real projects on the ground, with policy providing the bridge between the two.

This requires a shift in mindset. We need to build the bioeconomy into the design of projects and policies from the very beginning, and for that we need solid science and reliable data.

That is one of the key messages I took from ICABR 2026. The conference brought together so many experts, perspectives and ongoing initiatives, and we need to make better use of this knowledge. This is **what the bioeconomy is really about: not one single sector, but different sectors connecting, exchanging and adding value**. When we develop a bioeconomy strategy, we therefore need data that can capture these interactions.

For me, the way forward is: more knowledge from the outset, and stronger connections between ICABR, the academic community, FAO and other institutions."

"The 30th ICABR conference offered a truly **multidisciplinary perspective** on the bioeconomy transition, bringing together leading scholars and early-career researchers from all over the globe in the beautiful setting of the Amalfi Coast. As a PhD student, I found the conference a great opportunity to connect with experts on the research topics I am investigating, receive relevant feedback, expand my network, and lay the groundwork for future collaborations."

F. Parmiggiani, PhD candidate, Università Cattolica, Italy

Koen Deconinck, economist at the OECD, Paris.

"What I like about the meeting is **it's a really unique place where you get to talk to natural scientists, people from industry, as well as economists and others.** And that mix I think is really great.

I spoke to geneticists, I spoke to people who run a business; you get all these different perspectives. I heard about aflatoxin, I heard about the science behind that. So there's all kinds of topics that otherwise I would not be exposed to.

That's actually one of the big attractions of coming to this conference.

I work on how to measure carbon footprints of agri-food products and it's also the kind of topic where you need to know the natural sciences, you need to know what industry is doing, what is feasible, what is not feasible, you need to know about the economics and the regulations. It has the same mix of natural sciences, regulation, policy, economics, incentives and so on, and private sector insights. That's also one reason I was actually happy to come and present our work here and have discussions here because I knew it would be a good fit for the type of people who come to this conference.

- **What do you think are the key issues we should be addressing?**

There are many questions around the topic I work on, Measuring carbon footprints. I think there's lots of topics there that are really perfect questions for agricultural economists. to get more agricultural economists to look at these questions. So, for example, if we start measuring carbon footprints, is this something that will be very difficult for smaller companies to do? Is it going to push them out of the supply chain? Is it going to lead to more market concentration because only big companies can do that? That's a typical economic question.

We know from the evidence that developing countries tend to have a higher carbon footprint. Does that mean that if everybody starts looking at carbon footprints we will be buying less from developing countries and more from our own countries and rich countries? So could it have impacts on trade flows? Would it potentially even change the bargaining power in the supply chain if we start collecting all that data? I think there's many different questions there, many important questions about how to incentivize people to do that. How to make sure that people are willing to share that data and won't be afraid that the data will be used against them? There's all kinds of questions around institutions, incentives, trade flows, impacts on different types of actors. And a lot of it reminds me of the discussions that happened maybe 20 years ago or so around the rise of food safety standards, private quality standards by retailers and so on. So I think there's a lot that we can probably learn from that previous literature and lots of new questions as well.

Interviews & Comments

from

SITES-ICABR 2026 Summer School, Ravello



**Economics for Sustainable Development:
Bioeconomy and One Health as
Interdependent Governance Frameworks**

Ravello (Italy) | July 6–7, 2026

The Summer School is grounded in the recognition that human, animal, and environmental health are deeply interconnected, and that agriculture and rural territories play a central role in addressing global challenges related to food security, climate change, biodiversity, and public health. The One Health approach provides the overarching conceptual framework through which bioeconomy strategies, innovation pathways, and policy interventions are analysed.

The Summer School aims to serve as a premier technical incubator where researchers bridge the gap between micro-level biotechnological shifts and macro-economic policy frameworks. By mastering integrated CGE and econometric modeling, participants gain the specific analytical toolkit required to lead multilateral bioeconomy initiatives for sustainable development.

*"The SITES Summer School was an **excellent and highly enriching experience.** Although my academic background is not in economics and I was not initially familiar with all the topics covered, the lectures were so clear and well-structured that it was easy to follow the discussions and actively engage with the material. The quality of the speakers and professionals involved was outstanding, and their expertise and willingness to share their knowledge made the experience even more valuable. I also greatly appreciated the opportunity to meet participants from different backgrounds, exchange ideas, and establish new professional and personal connections."*

HONORARY MEMBERSHIP AWARDS

During ICABR 2026, Prof. Pasquale Lucio Scandizzo, Prof. Carl Pray, and Prof. Sara Savastano were awarded Honorary Membership of ICABR in recognition of their outstanding contributions to the creation, development, and continued success of the Consortium. Their long-standing commitment, scientific engagement, and support have played a fundamental role in shaping ICABR and helping it grow and thrive over the years.

News from the bio world

AT A GLANCE

Upcoming Regulators Forum: The EU is set to establish a dedicated Bioeconomy Regulators and Innovators' Forum ahead of upcoming global summits. [Read more](#)

Commercializing Agricultural Waste: Ongoing industry projects continue scaling alternatives to fossil plastics, such as turning rice husks into industrial substitutes and processing sugar beet pulp into eco-friendly paper. [Read more](#)

Bridging the Scale-Up Gap: Global initiatives note a persistent disconnect where technical innovation advances quickly, but commercialization requires tighter multi-actor cooperation and risk-reduction financing. [Read more](#)



Russia announced a highly centralized National Bioeconomy Project aimed at establishing a long-term economic strategy up to 2050, focusing heavily on biotech sovereignty, domestic market protection, and cross-cutting agrifood/industrial products.



Global Bioeconomy Summit 2026 happening October 20–21 in Dublin, Ireland. The international summit will serve as the primary launching pad for the European Commission's new Bio-based Europe Alliance.



China has formally designated biomanufacturing and synthetic biology as core strategic industries in its 15th Five-Year Plan (2026–2030). The policy cements a long-term goal of total technological and pharmaceutical self-reliance by 2035.



Second Edition of IBBC 2026 in Spain to engage with global experts to explore breakthroughs in bioenergy and the bioeconomy, build meaningful collaborations, and contribute to a more sustainable energy future October 28–30, 2026 | University of Seville, Spain



European Bioeconomy Conference

Jointly organized with industry bodies, this event addresses Europe's strategic industrial autonomy through bio-based materials. Key topics include sustainable biomass supply chains, recycling, circularity, and agriculture-to-textile shifts.



According to the newly released India BioEconomy Report (IBER) 2026, the national bioeconomy has reached a value of \$195.3 billion, marking an 18% annual growth rate. The sector now contributes nearly 5% to India's total GDP.



The European Commission is stepping up the implementation of the EU's Bioeconomy Strategy by launching three complementary initiatives. This includes the Bio-based Europe Alliance (BEA) to support market scale-up, the Bioeconomy Investment Deployment Group (BIDG) to improve access to finance, and the Expert Group on Bioeconomy to support implementation by Member States.



FAO has launched a new Inventory of Bioeconomy Indicators, an online tool designed to help countries and stakeholders translate bioeconomy strategies and plans into measurable, decision-ready evidence. The tool responds to a central challenge: how to monitor bioeconomy development and assess its sustainability in a credible, comparable and context-sensitive way. The indicators inventory complements FAO's 2025 publication Indicators for sustainable bioeconomy:



European Bioeconomy Alliance

Carbohydrates as replacement of phenol formaldehyde resin for insulation

Phenol formaldehyde resins were traditionally used as adhesive in the production of mineral wools (Glass & Stone wool).

Crop-based carbohydrates can successfully substitute phenol formaldehyde resins in these industrial processes with beneficial effects on both economic and environmental sustainability. The replacement of these fossil-based resins addresses and eliminates the negative toxicological effects of formaldehyde release from the production processes, and it equally presents economic advantages according to the different bio-based ingredients used as a replacement.

Starch is renewable and biodegradable, and as such it and its derivatives are a well-suited raw material for the sustainable use of agricultural products in the bio-based industry.



ICABR
International Consortium on Applied Bioeconomy Research

Bringing ICABR to a Wider Audience: A New Communication Strategy

ICABR has begun developing a more active communication strategy, with a simple but important objective: to make the Consortium, its activities and the expertise of its community better known beyond its traditional academic networks and to strengthen the communication of ICABR research to the wider public.

The 30th Anniversary Conference in Ravello provided a natural starting point for this initiative. Press kits were prepared in three languages and an initial media network was assembled, with particular attention to Italian media in connection with the anniversary conference in Ravello, while also reaching out to relevant international outlets.

As a first step, the communication effort has already identified and approached a network of around 40 media and journalist contacts, covering Italian and international newspapers, news agencies, specialised media and other outlets. This represents a starting point rather than an endpoint: the aim is now to progressively enlarge and diversify this network and establish more regular channels through which ICABR's research and activities can reach audiences outside academia.

This is not intended as a one-off initiative associated only with the 30th anniversary. Rather, it marks the beginning of a broader effort to strengthen ICABR's external visibility and communication capacity, helping to connect the knowledge and expertise present within the Association with public debate, policymakers, journalists and other interested communities.

One of ICABR's greatest resources in pursuing this objective is the ICABR community itself. Its members work across countries, institutions and disciplines and collectively have extensive professional and personal networks. Every member can therefore contribute to this initiative. Members who know journalists, editors, media professionals or relevant communication organisations, or who have suggestions, contacts or ideas that could help ICABR reach a wider audience, are warmly encouraged to share them. Even a single contact or introduction can contribute to progressively building a stronger communication network.

This initiative also responds directly to one of the themes that emerged from the strategic discussion in Ravello: producing excellent and increasingly multidisciplinary research remains at the heart of ICABR, but communicating that knowledge effectively beyond the scientific community is becoming increasingly important as well.

To contribute media contacts, suggestions or ideas to ICABR's communication initiative, please contact Lorenzaalexandra.lorenzetti@unicatt.it

GET TO KNOW THE NEW BOARD (part II)

Janhong Jin

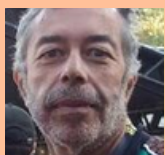


Growing up on a small island in southeastern China, roughly a four-hour drive from Shanghai, I had a front-row seat to the evolution of local marine life and the traditional fishing methods employed by my father's generation. A pivotal moment occurred in 1995, when the Chinese government first introduced seasonal fishing moratoriums. This policy was later formalized into a strict, mandatory annual ban from May to September beginning in 2017. Observing these regulatory shifts and their profound ripple effects on local livelihoods was my first introduction to the complex dynamics of environmental sustainability and technology adoption.

Fast forward to my academic career, where these foundational childhood observations have matured into a robust research program. Today, my work centers on the nexus of food, nutrition, and health, alongside the adoption and socioeconomic impacts of technological innovations, ranging from advancements within agricultural and food systems to automation and AI in the broader economy. Throughout this journey, I have harbored a long-standing desire to expand my research portfolio into the blue bioeconomy, exploring how marine and aquatic resources can be sustainably managed to support global food security and environmental resilience.

This ambition began to take concrete shape in Fall 2025, when Dr. Carl Pray and I initiated a series of collaborative dialogues with our colleagues in the Department of Marine and Coastal Sciences. These initial exchanges culminated in a highly successful circular bioeconomy workshop at Rutgers University. The event proved to be an immense learning experience, deeply enriching my understanding of sustainable bio-based systems and further fueling a continued joy in exploring the vast, untapped potential of the blue bioeconomy.

José Maria da Silveira



José Maria Ferreira Jardim da Silveira is Full Professor of Economics at the Institute of Economics of the University of Campinas (UNICAMP), Brazil, where he is also affiliated with the Center for Applied, Agricultural and Environmental Economics. His research covers industrial organization, technological innovation, bioenergy, energy transition, agricultural innovation, network economics and agent-based modelling. He has held visiting and leadership roles in Brazil and abroad and has developed extensive international research collaborations. He has been a member of the Scientific Committee of the International Consortium on Applied Bioeconomy Research (ICABR) since 2012 and is also a member of the Steering Committee of the International Schumpeter Society.

Vincenzina Caputo



Vincenzina Caputo is Associate Professor in the Department of Agricultural, Food, and Resource Economics at Michigan State University and holds the Homer Nowlin Chair in Consumer Responsive Product Agriculture. Her research focuses on consumer food choices, demand for novel food products and new food technologies, and the economic analysis of consumer decision-making. Her work draws on agricultural economics, marketing, behavioral economics, neuroeconomics and sensory science, with particular attention to improving the design and reliability of experimental methods and discrete choice experiments. Through this interdisciplinary approach, her research contributes to a better understanding of how consumers respond to innovation, information and changing attributes in food and agricultural markets.

Part III of GET TO KNOW THE NEW BOARD, in the next newsletter!

The Board of ICABR

Executive Members



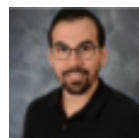
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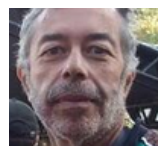


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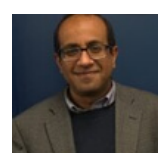
Regina Birner
University of Hohenheim
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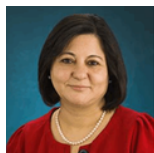
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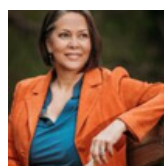
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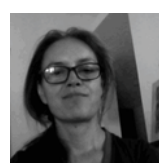
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About ICABR: The Consortium was established to bring together international scholars in the field of bioeconomy studies – its partners come from across the globe and include leaders in agricultural and economic development, natural resources management,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

(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

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