



Call for papers *International Food and Agribusiness Management Review*

Special issue IFAMA Europe

European agrifood business in transition towards social responsibility

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Foreword

IFAMA is actively working to better coordinate opportunities for collaboration with its regional chapters, recognize and support their work, and to offer all IFAMA members better opportunities to benefits from these activities. At the same time IFAMA intends to further strengthen its journal, the IFAMR, and its annual World Congress; together the two offer a unique platform to promote work by regional chapters.

In order to pursue these objectives, IFAMA and IFAMA Europe, IFAMA's European chapter, have decided to start the publication of an annual "IFAMA Europe special issue" of IFAMR. Edited by a specially appointed Guest Editor, the special issue follows the strict review requirements of IFAMR and focuses on an agreed theme described in a dedicated call for papers. The special issue will also be the feature of a dedicated session at the annual Forum, part of the World Congress.

General statement

Thanks to the complex requirements of sustainability at various levels (Dentoni and Peterson, 2011; Dentoni et al., 2012) in a context of a diversified organizational and institutional landscape, European agrifood companies actively search for new ways of innovation towards social responsibility. The necessity to better understand the innovation processes for sustainability implemented by agrifood companies has been frequently emphasized in the management literature (Barth et al., 2017; Blok and Lemmens, 2015; Lubberink et al., 2017; Tell et al., 2016).

These innovation trends can be summarized around two axes:

(1) The first axis questions the strategic intertwining and convergence between technological opportunity and organization of the agrifood chains (Bigliardi and Galati, 2013; Carayannis et al., 2018; Kalaitzandonakes et al., 2018; Golembiewski et al., 2015). The strategic convergence leading to a reconfiguration of the bioeconomy has been acknowledged (Boehlje and Bröring, 2011; Golembiewski et al., 2015). The food-water-energy nexus (Mohtar and Daher, 2012), concomitantly with the systemic view of innovation (Fearne et al., 2012), brings expanded strategic opportunities. Similarly, this is probably the possibility of collaborations within the “quadruple helix” of partners (Carayannis et al., 2018; Kalaitzandonakes et al., 2018) that will drive successful strategies in the future. From that point of view, the specificities of the European context (Sarkar and Costa, 2008), notably thank to its organizational diversity (Martino et al., 2017) and to the originality of its informal and formal organizations and policy devoted to innovation (Batterink et al., 2010; Touzard et al., 2015), will serve as active drivers of technological and organizational transformation.

(2) The second axis puts forward the learning dimensions of the innovation processes (Bossle et al., 2016; Hinrichs, 2014; Olsen, 2015). The move of companies and of partnering research/policy organizations towards design activities constantly drives the players towards “upstream” activities. The objective of innovation strategies is to promote an “innovation continuum” (Lubberink et al., 2017), i.e. transformations in the design of complete innovation processes integrating new stakeholders, new activities and new partners (Meynard et al., 2017; Procopio Schoen, 2017; Kalaitzandonakes et al., 2018; Wognum et al., 2011). This focus on design induces renewed roles of organizational learning: types of knowledge, integration of science, technology and management, new categories of intermediaries and of devices for collaboration (Deiters and Schiefer, 2012; Abdirahman et al., 2014). The innovation strategies of agrifood companies move towards a reconfiguration of their knowledge-based activities and partners (Colurcio et al., 2012; Meynard et al., 2017; Procopio Schoen, 2017).

Topics

The IFAMR “IFAMA Europe special issue” will focus in particular on the following topics in considering explicitly the contingency (and specificities) of European context, either through evidence from agrifood companies, their environment, or both. The special issue welcomes contributions centered on one country as well as on inter-European comparisons and comparisons between European and non-European research cases. The contributions can be focused on original theories and methodologies of innovative strategies at micro and/or supply chain and network levels found in Europe.

- 1) Research case studies of innovative interplay between various stakeholders and/or various activities within the agrifood chains.

- 2) Theories and methodologies that put forward innovative ways of creating sustainable business models.
- 3) New forms of organizational learning for sustainable transitions in agrifood companies, implying various stakeholders and types of knowledge.
- 4) Emergence of collective initiatives at professional, research and institutional levels for enhancing/implementing social responsibility strategies.
- 5) Roles of new intermediaries, communities of practice and web-based devices of learning for social responsibility innovations in Europe.
- 6) Research case studies of European companies implementing a social responsibility strategic convergence within the food-water-energy nexus.

Review process protocol

The review process of this Special Issue is two-step.

Step 1: an IFAMA Europe review committee will select extended abstracts through a double-blind process. Extended abstracts should include the following sections: problem description; methodology; results; managerial implications.

Step 2: the selected extended abstracts will enter the IFAMR reviewing process with a double-blind review process and will follow the guidelines of regular IFAMR issues.

<https://www.wageningenacademic.com/journals/ifamr/guidelines>

Special issue timeline

Extended abstract (approximately 1000 words excluding references) submission deadline: November 15th 2018 (to be sent to loic.sauvee@unilasalle.fr)

Feedback to authors on abstracts: November 30th 2018.

Full paper submission deadline: March 15th 2019.

Feedback to authors on full papers: June 1st 2019.

Articles will be published 'in press' as soon as possible after acceptance. Complete issue is expected September 30th 2019.

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