



7th SUD SYMPOSIUM - Speakers' biographies

Tomas Garcia Azcarate has a Phd. in Agricultural Economics. He is Deputy Director of the Institute for Economics, geography and Demography of the Spanish National Research Council. He was Commission's civil servant during 29 years. He is member of the French Academy of Agriculture and the Italian Accademia dei Georgofilli. He is also member of the Scientific board of the French Mission AgroBiosciences at INRA as well as member of the Advisory Board of the International Center for Advanced Mediterranean Agronomic Studies CIHEAM.

Florence Jacquet is an agricultural economist, graduated from the French National Institute of Agronomy, and Directeur de Recherche in the French Institut National de la Recherche Agronomique (INRA). She worked for 20 years, as professor, in the CIHEAM-Institut Agronomique Mediterranean of Montpellier, developing scientific cooperation among the Mediterranean Basin countries.

In 2006, she joined INRA in the Economic Department. Her research focused on agricultural and environmental policies, sustainability of farming systems, and farm modeling.

Since 2013, she worked also for ANR the French national research funding agency where she has been strongly involved in coordinating national research programmes focused in agroecological transition and building cooperation among Research Funding Agencies in the Mediterranean Basin.

Since 2018 she ensures at Inra the scientific coordination of a new French research program funded called "cultiver et protéger autrement" (alternative cropping and crop protection) towards a zero pesticides agriculture.

Erik Mathijs is Director of SFERE (Sustainable Food Economies Research Group) and Professor of Agricultural and Resource Economics at the Department of Earth and Environmental Sciences, KU Leuven. He holds a Master's degree in Bioscience Engineering (1991) and a PhD in Agricultural Economics (1998), both from KU Leuven. His research focuses on the practices, metrics and policies fostering the transformation of the agricultural and food system towards sustainability and resilience. Prof. Mathijs has over 25 years of experience in managing national and international research projects, including the FP7 project TRANSMANGO and the H2020 project SUFISA. He is further involved in the H2020 projects FOX, NEWBIE, SURE-FARM and LIFT. Prof. Mathijs was rapporteur and chairman respectively of the 3th and the 4th Foresight Exercise of the EU's Standing Committee for Agricultural Research.

Helle Ørsted Nielsen is a Senior Researcher (PhD Political Science) at Aarhus University, Department of Environmental Science and Department of Political Science. HON's research focuses on governance, implementation, design of policy instruments and target group behavior in the fields of agro-environmental, energy, and climate policy. She is the author of 'Bounded Rationality in decision-making' on farmers' responses to market-based regulation

and has co-authored multiple peer-reviewed articles and book chapters on Danish farmers' use of pesticides.

Dott. Alessandra (Alex) Valsecchi was born in Lecco, on Lake Como (Italy) in 1971. Completed and obtain a high degree in Science of Agronomy, specialized in Fruit Culture, Viticulture and Tree Nursery Management at University of Milan in 1996. She moved to the UK soon after and worked for three years at Hillier Nurseries where she mastered all aspects of nursery management of ornamental Trees and Shrubs from propagation to distribution. Consequently, Alex moved to the Royal Horticultural Society, Wisley Gardens (Dec1999-Dec2009) where she worked and managed the team in the Fruit Department. Whilst working she has been actively involved in the development of the trainees and the public throughout masterclasses and practical demonstrations. In particular, she is responsible for the development of the viticulture sector via planting a small demonstrative vineyard and undertaking regular working bursary/sabbatical visit to New Zealand. By the end of 2009, she started her own business and joined Albury Vineyard as consultant and vineyard manager where developed in greater depth knowledge/practice of Organic and Biodynamic viticulture. Whilst at Albury, she became External Examiner for the viticulture section at Plumpton College and more recently was proudly elected Committee Member for the Fruit, Vegetable and Herb Committee of the Royal Horticultural Society.

Paolo Maria Mosca is an organic farmer who produces rice, legumes and other cereals in Vercelli, Northern Italy. He has an agronomic education and participates in numerous research and development projects, both Italian and European, on the subject of production sustainability. Its rice fields are cultivated with alternative methods on an area of 130 hectares. He developed multiple techniques and chose resistant varieties, more suitable for cultivation without external inputs, in order to phase out his dependency on chemical pesticides. reduce the dependence on chemistry to zero. The new agricultural model on which his company is based reconciles good production with natural and sustainable management of fungus, weeds and harmful insects, which must be achieved through a holistic approach combining different means. He firmly believes in true, transparent and verifiable organic production: to do all this we need knowledge, we need to go back to being farmers, experts, we need to recreate a model of circular growth, which includes aspects of business economics, social sustainability, environmental and people's health. He likes to talk about agricultural policy: the real kind of policy that sets goals and actually reaches them. What we are experiencing as farmers is a very important moment, there are huge challenges, we must consciously get involved, do our part and give the right answers. He dreams of being a free farmer. Really free and sustainable.

Jean-François Monod is a 37-year-old farmer and a father of two kids. After a Bachelor in Agronomy in Nancy (France), he took over his grandfather's farm in 2005. He is the administrator of Arterris, a local cooperative. He is also president of the Castelnaudary bean producers' union and board member of the National Federation of Seed Grower.

David Baldock was the Executive Director of IEEP for eighteen years until July 2016 and is now a Senior Fellow. He has had a career in independent policy institutes, working closely with EU and other public institutions and NGOs as well as academics. He joined the Institute for

European Environmental Policy (IEEP) in 1984 and became Director in 1998, establishing the Brussels office two years later. He has written about, and engaged in, many aspects of European environmental, agricultural, climate, food and related policies. One of his main interests has been the effort to re think and re work agricultural policy into new agendas, both within the CAP and more localised contexts. Recently he has led projects on the environmental and agricultural dimensions of Brexit and its aftermath as well as participating in numerous events on this theme. Unfortunately, this seems set to continue.

Andreas Gumbert (DG ENVI) works in the Unit "Land Use & Management" of the Directorate General for Environment of the European Commission (Unit D.1). In this Unit, Mr Gumbert is Team Leader for Environment and Agriculture. Mr Gumbert joined the European Commission in 2002. He holds a Ph.D. in natural sciences.

Andrew OWEN-GRIFFITHS (DG HEALTH) qualified in the UK in Environmental Health, working in the UK as an Environmental Health Officer specialising in Food Safety. He has worked in Food Safety in the UK in both the private and public sectors, and in Dubai in an education role training food inspectors. Since 2000, he has worked in the European Commission, joining what was then the Food and Veterinary Office in 2000. He is currently Head of Unit Plants and Organics, which covers audits on Plant Health, GMO. Organic Farming and quality labels, Contaminants, Pesticides and Biocides. The unit since 2016 has been fully responsible for the policy area of the Sustainable Use Directive, with a steadily increasing priority. When not working, he runs, climbs, canoes and tries to keep the work football team in order.

Gijs Schilthuis (DG AGRI) is the Head of Unit for Policy Perspectives at the European Commission's Directorate-General for Agriculture and Rural Development. He has worked since 2008, in different capacities, on agricultural policy reform in this Directorate-General. He first joined the European Commission in 2005 at the Directorate-General for Health and Consumers. Prior to joining the Commission, he worked at the European Parliament as a parliamentary assistant. He earned a Master's degree in agricultural economics from Wageningen University in 2000. He is a Dutch national.

Sarah Wiener (Greens/EFA MEP), born 1962 in Halle (Germany), grew up in Vienna (Austria) and emigrated to Berlin in the 1980s, where she is successful as a cook, author and entrepreneur. She became known to a wider audience through numerous TV series such as "The Culinary Adventures of Sarah Wiener" on the cultural channel Arte. She has been a member of the European Parliament since 2019. Her focus is on healthy nutrition and agriculture. In 2007 she founded the Sarah Wiener Foundation, with which she promotes healthy eating habits among children and adolescents. She has also been a German ambassador for the UN Decade for Biological Diversity since 2011. Since 2013 she has been the patroness of the campaign "Save our soils".

Michal Wiezik (EPP MEP) is an Associate Professor in Ecology. He specializes in landscape ecology, entomology and management of protected areas. Next to research and lecturing at the Technical University at the Faculty of ecology and environmental science he has been engaged as part of various expert groups in preparation of strategic documents at

national level, including the Strategy for protection of the UNESCO site Ancient and Primeval Beech Forests of the Carpathians. Currently he is involved in setting the strategy of nature tourism in Slovakia. As of July 2019 he is a Member of the European Parliament for Slovakia, Together political party (SPOLU), which is affiliated to EPP Group.