Michele De Benedictis † 10-1-2016

It is with deep sadness that we have to inform you that Michele De Benedictis (EAAE, IAAE and AIEAA fellow) passed away on the 10th of January 2016, at the age of 88 years. Michele participated actively in the preliminary work for the establishment of our Association and of the European Review of Agricultural Economics. He was a fellow of the EAAE, awarded at the EAAE congress in Ghent in 2008. Over the past 50 years, Michele has been a leader in the profession, a strong voice for scientific rigor, and a mentor to many colleagues. He has been among the most visible and influential Italian agricultural economists, and his efforts and leadership have significantly contributed to the enhancement of the discipline and of its capacity to contribute to public policy decision-making.

Chantal Le Mouël
EAAE President

Michele is Professor Emeritus of Economics at the University of Rome 'La Sapienza' and chairs the Manlio Rossi-Doria Research Association. In 1989 he was elected Fellow of the Accademia Nazionale dei Lincei, the oldest and most prestigious Italian Scientific Academy, established in 1555. From 1976 to 1990 he has been appointed by the President of Italy to the Italian National Council of Economy and Employment, a constitutional body whose task is to advise the Government and Parliament on economic and social issues.

Michele participated actively in the preliminary work for the establishment of our Association and of the European Review of Agricultural Economics. He served on the Editorial Board of Agricultural Economics from 1985 to 1991. In 2000 he was awarded Lifetime Membership by the International Association of Agricultural Economists.

In 1979 Michele published (with Vincenzo Cosentino) a production economics textbook that made profound innovations in the traditional teaching of farm management in Italy and has been for over 20 years the main reference on farm management for several generation of Italian agricultural economists. This book was given in 1980 the prestigious Saint Vincent Award in Economics. Over the past 50 years, Michele has been a leader in the profession, a strong voice for scientific rigor, and a mentor to many colleagues. He has been among the most visible and influential Italian agricultural economist, and his efforts and leadership have significantly contributed to the enhancement of the stature of the discipline and of its capacity to contribute to public policy decision-making.