

**Name:** Donato Romano

**Photo:**



**Age:** 60

**Nationality:** Italian

**Current position:** Professor, Department of Economics and Management, University of Florence, Italy

**Research areas:** Development microeconomics, food and nutrition security analysis, rural development in LDCs

**Education:**

PhD in Forest Economics and Policy, University of Florence, Italy (1988)

MSc in Forestry, University of Florence, Italy (1984)

**Other responsibilities and positions:**

Editorial Board of *Bio-Based and Applied Economics* – BAE (2020-ongoing)

Vice-President of the Italian Economic Association – SIE (2019-ongoing)

Member of the Executive Board of the Italian Economic Association – SIE (2016-2019)

President of the Italian Association of Agricultural and Applied Economics – AIEAA (2012-2014)

Member of the Executive Board of the Italian Association of Agricultural Economics – SIDEA (2007-2010)

Director of the PhD Program in Development Economics and Local Systems – DELoS (2010-16), University of Trento and University of Florence (Italy)

**Personal home page:** <https://www.unifi.it/p-doc2-2012-200001-R-3f2a3d2e38292e.html>

**Selected publications (max 5):**

- Rocchi, B., Romano, D., Sadiddin, A., and Stefani, G. (2020). Assessing the Economy-Wide Impact of Food Fraud: A SAM-Based Counterfactual Approach. *Agribusiness – An International Journal* 36(2): 167-191.
- Romano, D., and Traverso, S. (2019). Disentangling the Impact of International Migration on Food and Nutrition Security of Left-Behind Households: Evidence from Bangladesh. *The European Journal of Development Research*: 1-29.
- Romano, D., Stefani, G., Rocchi, B., and Fiorillo, C. (2019). The Impact of Assistance on Poverty and Food Security in A Fragile and Protracted-Crisis Context: The Case of West Bank and Gaza Strip. *Bio-based and Applied Economics* 8(1): 21-61.
- D'errico, M., Romano, D. and Pietrelli, R. (2018). Household Resilience to Food Insecurity: Evidence from Tanzania and Uganda. *Food Security* 10: 1033-1054.
- Rocchi, B., Romano, D., and Hamza, R., (2013). Agriculture Reform and Food Crisis in Syria: Impacts on Poverty and Inequality. *Food Policy* 43 (Dec): 190-203.

**Challenges facing the EAAE:**

The issues to be tackled by agricultural economists are increasingly complex, spanning across discipline, sector and geographic boundaries. This requires EAAE going beyond its core business. The main challenge facing the EAAE is to expand its activities towards the society at large while keeping its well-established role in exchanging and disseminating AgEcon knowledge and research. EAAE has already started going in this direction, but the process needs to be sped up strengthening/qualifying EAAE's role as:

- a network of scientists open to dialogue with researchers from non-European agricultural economists (primarily the ones not yet well represented in our initiatives such as the AgEcon regional associations from LDCs), other economic fields (e.g. environmental, industrial, regional, international trade, development economics), and kindred disciplines (e.g. sociology, law, political science, behavioral sciences, etc.);
- a key player in informing public policy not only in the traditional agricultural and rural development field, but also related fields (e.g. environment, food, trade) as well as some key crosscutting fields such as EU research and education;
- a platform where the stakeholders related to agricultural economics (e.g. policy makers, regulatory bodies, producers and consumer organizations, civil society, etc.) can exchange information, ideas, and visions.

**What I would like to see achieved in the next Board period (September 2020 – August 2023):**

Going beyond the comfort zone of EAAE core business while keeping core business activities thriving requires a significant rate of pragmatism. This means learning from past experiences, strengthening/upscaling good

practices and experimenting with new ones, being aware that three years are not enough to fully address the challenges above and keeping an eye to the budget. A feasible set of interventions over the next term could be as follows:<sup>1</sup>

- increasing the rate of sessions co-organized with non-European AgEcon associations, other economic field associations and selected associations from kindred disciplines at the next EAAE congress;
- organizing one event per year to disseminate research results and interact with stakeholders and policy makers (such as the one organized in collaboration with the JRC and the EU Commission in May 2019);
- organizing one event with a focus on African agriculture involving major institutional players such as the EU Commission, UN specialized agencies (e.g. FAO, IFAD), and other international organizations (e.g. WB, IFPRI);
- organize one event on the evolution of AgEcon discipline contents, program contents, and teaching modes aiming at sharing experiences and identifying good practices;
- experiment with new forms of promotion of young researchers' engagement other than the EAAE workshop for PhD students (e.g. facilitating networking of existing initiatives such as summer schools);
- improving EAAE's institutional communication, revising the contents and appearance of the EAAE website and newsletter and effectively launching EAAE social media accounts.

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<sup>1</sup> Assuming the coronavirus crisis will be solved by the end of 2020. Alternatively, the proposed events should be redesigned as online events (e.g. webinars) or rescheduled.