

Announcing Changes in the JAEID property and Editorial Board

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The publishing of the second and last issue of 2020 of the Journal of Agriculture and Environment for International Development (JAEID) represents the right time to update our readers about all changes the Journal has been undergone in the year 2020. The most relevant is about the JAEID property, changed from the Italian Agency for Development Cooperation (AICS, Italy) to the University of Florence (UNIFI, Italy).

The Journal has been published since 1907, under different names, at the beginning by the Istituto Agricolo Coloniale Italiano (Italian Agricultural Colonial Institute, IACI) then by the Istituto Agronomico per l'Oltremare (Overseas Agronomic Institute, IAO), a technical and scientific body of the Italian Ministry of Foreign Affairs, re-integrated in 2015 into AICS.

Since 1913, IACI organized specialization courses for postgraduates in tropical agriculture. The cooperation with UNIFI is dated back to 1935, just after the birth of the Faculty of Agriculture of the University (De Robertis, 2019). In 1953, the Institute became an agency of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs (MAE) and received the new denomination of IAO. Collaborations between IAO and the Faculty of Agriculture got gradually intensified, and, in 1980, a 4-year degree course in Tropical and Subtropical Agriculture started. After the suppression of the IAO, in 2015 also the educational expertise of IACI/IAO was fully inherited by UNIFI, with the opening of the MSc in Natural Resources Management for Tropical Rural Development¹.

Therefore, the passage of property of JAEID to UNIFI represents the natural evolution of the close collaboration established between IAO and UNIFI, both in the sector of education and in the shared vision of cooperation activities in agricultural fields in arid and semi-arid areas.

The success of the Journal over the past years is primarily attributable to the continuing and substantial support given by the past Editors in Chief (Luca Ongaro from 2010 to 2018 and Lorenzo Orioli from 2018 to 2020) and all the components of the Editorial Board. They have facilitated the peer review of submitted manuscripts by identifying suitable reviewers and making recommendations for revisions and publication. These assistance activities have been crucial to guarantee the continuity in publication and the high scientific quality of the Journal in time.

We really want to acknowledge the Editors in Chief's commitment and dedication in leading the Journal for many years without losing the enthusiasm as well as all the members of the Editorial Board for the excellent work done so far.

¹ <https://www.tropicalruraldevelopment.unifi.it/>.

Bearing all the above in mind, our commitment is to take the challenge and continue this activity, by making JAEID an international, multidisciplinary reference-point journal dealing with sustainable agricultural production, food security, environment, economics and social science, and all related fields in Developing Countries and Countries in transition.

The new Editorial Board is composed by 28 people, with 36% of non-Italian experts, from countries in all the five continents. The new editorial structure will include 5 sections, with a member responsible of the coordinating manuscript review process: Agricultural production and food security; Sustainable land and water management and climate change; Geomatics and natural resources evaluation and protection; Rural development, economics and social sciences; Livestock, rural infrastructures and agricultural mechanics.

JAEID has been indexed Scopus since 2017 and the CiteScore value increased from 0.1 in 2017, to 0.4 in 2018 and 0.8 in 2019, and we expect a further growth for the year 2020.

This is a good trend and we will be working hardly with all the editors to maintain the tendency and, if possible, increase that value for the incoming years. For achieving this goal, a special commitment is required from all the components of the Editorial Board to proceed with good editorial practices and, moreover, it is required that Authors keep trusting the Journal and continue to submit papers of high-quality level.

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References

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