

# Opera newsletter

# 6

SUMMER 2011

OPERA



OPERA is a young, growing independent research center and think tank providing simple pragmatic solutions to support EU and national decision making. We bridge science and policy through a transparent platform to debate the right approaches for sustainable, intensive agriculture.



To have more information please visit our website [www.opera-indicators.eu](http://www.opera-indicators.eu) or contact us: [info@opera-indicators.eu](mailto:info@opera-indicators.eu)

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## OPERA is growing

During the past few years, we have seen many changes in the legislative framework that governs the agriculture activity. So often producing complexity, making difficult for different stakeholders to provide their contribution. And this is where the Agriculture Faculty of the Università Cattolica del Sacro Cuore (UCSC) only 18 months ago saw an opportunity to increase its visibility and contribution to sustainability by being part of a process of shaping EU legislation to benefit both intensive agriculture and the environment. And so, OPERA was born.

Our vision at Opera is to provide high quality information and analysis of the latest developments in EU agri-food policy-making to promote balanced dialogue between interested stakeholders. We are developing clear and pragmatic approaches for improving intensive and biological agriculture together with simple and transparent solutions for all our stakeholders through the use of existing research and developing new research in collaboration with partners to support the on-going sustainability of the European agriculture.

The think tank and the research staff is cross fertilised bringing together relevant

stakeholders to debate difficult agricultural issues; formulating policy recommendations; producing documents and scientific papers with possible solutions that adopt new techniques and technologies; developing and carrying on research project on specific issue previously highlighted in the public debates.

The 90 % of the OPERA the financial resources are coming from collaborations with public bodies and participation to international calls: this is a sign of the appreciation and of the trust created by this initiative. I take the opportunity of the newsletter for thanking all the collaborators of OPERA that sometime only with a click of the PC keyboard, with some hours of their time are making this success possible. And of course also to all the officers and students of the offices in Bruxelles and Piacenza.

With kind regards

**Ettore Capri**

Director of the OPERA Research Centre



### OPERA NEW STATUTE

**On March 2011 the New Statute of the Research Centre was approved by the University Senate.**

Since then OPERA has adopted a new name - European Observatory on Sustainable Agriculture - and additional broad scopes.

Main scope of the Centre is to promote scientific research on agri-food sustainable practices. The main objectives of the Centre are:

- A** - analyzes the European legislation and interprets its evolution;
- B** - gives scientific support to the development of a sustainable approach in farming, food transforming and retailing;
- C** - spreads the good practices and the sustainability models;

**D** - uses potential of existing and new scientific research to advise policy stakeholders on concrete actions and management of rural areas;

**E** - expresses, as European think tank, its view and opinion on the policy;

**F** - acts as centre of excellence and coordination within the network of universities, research centres, think tanks, authorities, companies and individual experts of high scientific or professional qualification;

**G** - facilitates exchange of knowledge, information and experience between relevant actors in the agri-food sector.

The new statute is giving more transparency to the technical and scientific activities of the research center who covers broad aspects of the sustainability in agriculture and in the food chains.



# TALKING ABOUT... SUSTAINABILITY

## “Suggestions for the implementation of the oncoming Directive for the Sustainable Use Directive of pesticides”

► On the 26th of May in Athens the Benaki Phytopathological Institute (BPI) and OPERA co-organized the workshop entitled “Towards the Implementation of the Directive on the Sustainable Use of Pesticides”.

This stakeholder workshop gathered representatives from the Greek Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development, different associations and the private sector and the academic sector up to a number of 70 participants.

The Ministry of agriculture was represented by the vice-minister **Mr Koutsoukos**, who focused his introductory speech on the need for an extensive dialogue between the stakeholders and on his belief that the scientific conclusions of the in-situ research will contribute towards this direction.

The presentations' session was opened by **Mr Theodoris**, representing the Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development, with an overview on the Sustainable Use Directive. He gave a general description of the SUD, its targets and he set the National Action Plan as a tool for implementation.

**Dr. Machera**, the Director of Benaki Phytopathological Institute, gave a description of the

projects implemented by the institute that could contribute to the development of the National Action Plan.

Furthermore, she made some suggestions for the implementation of the Directive such as the gradual implementation of the requirements based on certain criteria; priority on the training of the farmers; on packaging material and remnants management and the development and implementation of IPM systems.

**Alexandru Marchis**, Policy Team Coordinator of OPERA Research Center delivered a presentation on “The relation between CAP and SUD-Aspects to be considered in the implementation.”

He highlighted the need of a smart CAP which ensures food, environmental and social security.

**Adrian Dixon**, as the Head of the Policy Implementation Team of the Chemicals Regulation Directorate in the UK presented the “UK pesticides strategy and National Action Plan”. During his presentation he focused on the strategic outcomes to achieve high standards of human and environment protection against potential risks posed by pesticides whilst maintaining the economic viability of crop

production and effective control of pests, weeds and diseases.

**Amalia Kafka**, Scientific Officer of OPERA Research Center, presented the publication of OPERA related with the “Risk Indicators Selection and Quantitative Targets to meet SUD Objectives”.

The methodology of setting the measures, indicators and targets was described, while there were given some examples of numerical and realistic applications of the proposed measures.

**Maura Calliera**, scientist of Università Cattolica del Sacro Cuore, delivered to the audience a presentation entitled “Share knowledge for a Sustainable Management of the Agricultural Productions: The Italian experience in the Sustainable Use Directive perspective”.

The project she presented targeted in the development of a guideline for the Sustainable Use of pesticides integrated with a software that would train the professional users of PPP's and identify the critical elements in the production management to prevent environmental contaminations and to assure high standards of safety of the operators.

The cycle of presentations was closed by **Claudia Michel**, who as the Director of Food and Agricultural Affairs of ECPA delivered the presentation “Industry Projects related to Sustainable Use of PPPs and Views on Risk Indicators”.

She presented the industry projects regarding the safe and sustainable use of pesticides, the water protection, the safe disposal of the empty containers, as well as the industry's view on the implementation of SUD and the Risk Indicators.



The full report and the summary of the seminar are available for download here:  
<http://www.opera-indicators.eu/eng/info/news/179.html>



## Sustainability through... **BEVI SICURO**

► **BEVISICURO** (in English words *DRINK WITH TRUST*) is a network of projects promoted by two different research centres of the Università Cattolica, OPERA and the Research Center in Biotechnology (CRB).



The network is acting as a large folder of different projects: up to now the projects are founded by public (EuroPass, Regione Lombardia) and private (DowAgro-Sciences, Suez-Ondea, Syngenta, SprimItalia) bodies.

Its main objective is to contribute in building a common thinking about sustainability and valorisation of the water resource as key elements for the human health and for achieving a sustainable development.

This will be achieved making implementing a model able to promote a sustainable and conscious management of the water resources guaranteeing an appropriate availability along cities, rural and industrial areas.

**BEVISICURO** is an interdisciplinary project that deal with subthemes of the EXPO 2015 (the Universal exposition that will be hold in

Milan in the second half of the 2015) and will be developed especially in the Lombardia and Emilia Romagna regions (Italy) until the beginning of the universal exposition.

**In particular the project will focus on:**

- Improving the safety and the quality in relation to the drinking water;
- **promoting good practices** in water management;
- educate to a **correct use of water** to promote different life style;
- **enhance the knowledge** as fundamental cultural elements.

Thus, there will be developed a series of different researches focused on the human safety, water quality, food education.

At this point, already five projects have been started:

- Water safety and security in urban area (Parma and Piacenza) - PhD project by **Maria Chiara Fontanella**
- Sustainability of the water use in rice paddy area - two years project by **Giovanna Gagliotti**

- Water Footprint analysis in food packaging - PhD project by **Maria Chiara Corbo**
- Stakeholder analyses - post doctoral project by **Alessandra Vischi**
- Development best practises for uses of water and pesticide application regarding operator exposures in greenhouses - post doctoral project by **Eva Borghesi**

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## Sustainability through... **SOS**tain



**SOS**tain, a proactive and voluntary program, is a process of repeated appraisal and sensible

progress that increase the sustainability of viticulture.

It was created by OPERA in collaboration with experts on evaluation and management of environmental risks and data processing (Informatica Ambientale, Vinidea and Futura) and recently with specialist in agronomy and viticulture science of the Milano University and AGER srl. OPERA is responsible for the scientific, technological and methodological innovation of the project, for the selection and development of sustainability indicators and the development of the protocol.

The co-operating farms, assembled in a no-profit organization (ASV, Alliance for Sustainable Viticulture), collaborate with OPERA in order to ensure the continuous update and improvement of all the elements of the SOS

tain guidelines, a reference document that provides information and practical advice to assist growers in improving their sustainability performance. It promotes an aware management of the farm activities ensuring that the winemaker obtains continuous economical results together with social and environmental benefits.

From 9 to 10 July in Menfi (Italy) was held the SOS

tain project meeting hosted by Azienda Planeta (new partner of the project). During the meeting there were approved the following important documents: the "SOS

tain regulation" and the "regulation for the SOS

tain certification". Through these documents SOS

tain will be operatively developed following an agreed plan:

- of the partners:  
[www.tascadalmerita.it](http://www.tascadalmerita.it) - [www.planeta.it](http://www.planeta.it)
- visit our new website:  
[www.able2sustain.com](http://www.able2sustain.com)
- watch our video in:  
<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=3zqs0xhvHUo>
- or email us  
[contact@able2sustain.com](mailto:contact@able2sustain.com)



## Sustainability through... **BROW**SE



**BROW**SE (Bystanders, Residents, Operators and Workers Exposure models for plant protection products) is a multi-institutional project between eight different institutions funded by European Commission under the 7<sup>th</sup> Framework Programme.

Its main objective is to improve the assessment of risks to operators, workers, residents and bystanders by delivering new and improved models of exposure, thus improving the basis for targeting of risk reduction policy.

OPERA is contributing significantly to stakeholder consultation, the development of risk indicators and the development of new types of communication and training material.

For this reason, OPERA co-organised a workshop (on the 14-15 april 2011 in Brussels) as start of a consultation process in order to get opinions, ideas and expectations from the

most relevant stakeholders. This process will continue along all the length of the project and OPERA will organize the next two stakeholder consultations (two one-day meeting in the end of October and in the end of November in Brussels).

The first will focus on developing the detailed plans for **BROW**SE contributions to improving training and awareness-raising.

This consultation will gather latest information on current activities and initiatives for training and communication, including activities of the Commission, Member States, ECPA and trade unions, and identify the most effective ways for **BROW**SE to contribute to this.

The second detailed stakeholder consultation will focus on developing the detailed plans for **BROW**SE contributions to the development of harmonised EU risk indicators.

Again this will gather latest information on current activities, especially actions already underway or planned by the Commission, EUROSTAT and

EFSA to implement recommendations of the Arcadis report and identify the most effective ways for **BROW**SE to contribute to this.

The OPERA staff involved in this project is:

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If you would like to have more information about the project, please visit:  
[www.browseproject.eu](http://www.browseproject.eu)

## Sustainability through... **GUIDELINES**

The 6<sup>th</sup> July in Rome was presented the “*guidelines for a sustainable use of pesticides*”, a set of tools that help to an efficient comprehension of the main concepts regarding sustainable use of pesticides.

The guidelines are composed by an operative guide and by a free online software that have the following aims:

a) Training, informing and updating professionals which interact with final pesticides users. The guideline can be considered in the same time as a tool for train technicians as well as an operative guide to provide an innovative assistance service with the purpose of improving the safe, responsible and sustainable use of pesticides.

b) Identify the critical elements in the product management to prevent environmental contaminations and to assure high standard of safety for operators.

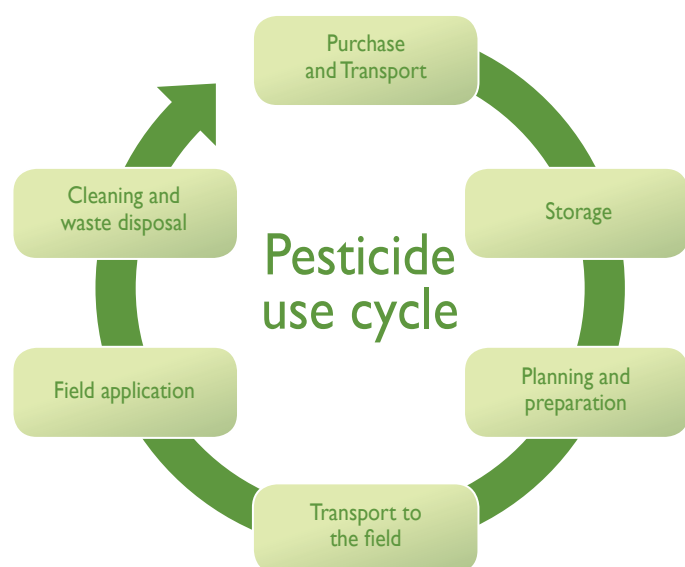
In this sense it was build a free online software to identify the crucial elements at farm level. The software is able to elaborate data coming from on-line compilation of a check list on good agricultural practices.

c) Give instructions and suggestions in order to improve the best pesticide practices to minimize potential contamination risks.

Easy and operative suggestions applicable in all agricultural context will be suggested and, furthermore, farmers will be helped in identifying the crucial elements in the pesticide management to minimize potential risks of contamination for environment and improve the operators safety

This project was the result of a volunteer collaboration between the public sector (**Emilia Romagna Region**), Academia (**OPERA**), industry (**Syngenta**) and a small enterprise acting as farmer advisor (**Horta srls**).

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## Mitigation measures for the sustainable use of PPP - bee health

**Objective:** produce a report proposing a state-of the art on the issue of honey bees in agricultural systems with a special emphasis on the risk assessment and risk management enforced on pesticides.

**Methodology:** As decided in the 2<sup>nd</sup> Scientific Committee OPERA (hold in Milan on 20<sup>th</sup> of May), a new working group will be created to deal with the above issue. This working group will be active within the

OPERA activities of identifying and promoting risk mitigation measures for the sustainable use of pesticides in Europe. The working group will gather all the relevant data and analysis available on the subject and will draft a report.

**Coordinator:** Anne Alix, Ministry of Agriculture, France  
Report timing, September 2011.





# TALKING ABOUT... A SMART CAP

## Agricultural Market Stabilization system policy instruments to be included in the CAP

On the 14<sup>th</sup> of March, 2011 hosted by the 4th Forum For the Future of Agriculture at "The SQUARE" conference center, OPERA organized the seminar "Agricultural Market Stabilization system - policy instruments to be included in the CAP". In the presence of a large majority of the agricultural stakeholders, (MS Authorities, EU institutions, European Associations, Academia and the private sector) OPERA presented in the seminar its latest report.

Professor **Daniele Rama**, UCSC Milan- Institute for Agro-food Economics, presented the OPERA Policy Recommendation Paper "Agricultural Market Stabilization System - policy instruments to be included in the CAP" focused on solutions to address market volatility.

The director of OPERA Research Center **Ettore Capri**, welcomed the audience and **Tierry de l'Escaille**, Secretary General of ELO hosted a panel discussion with **Tassos Haniotis**, Director DG Agriculture, European Commission, **Andrzej Babuchowski**, SCA Spokesman, Permanent Representation of Poland to EU, **Russell Mildon**, former Director for Market Management DG Agriculture and Professor **Daniele Rama**.

Prof. **Rama** in his presentation underlined the role of technology as paramount in managing the risks associated with the production process. The reduction of yield volatility could be supported by effective technologies for pest and disease management, he said.

The global climate change drives the need for higher investments in uptake of technologies and proper crop management to address future threats to agricultural production. Furthermore, he mentioned the influence of

innovation, as it is important that its potential is taken into account when considering the requirements for supply stability.

The price and income volatility has to be addressed in the CAP with the components of "Price and income safety net" as well as the "Risk Reduction", said Prof. **Rama**. Price and income safety net should address directly the issue of the excessive volatility of agricultural common prices, while risk reduction should address the production and income related risks so as to reduce the exposure of the farmer to the abnormal variations of the market. Concluding, he stated that price volatility in agricultural markets has the role of sending a signal to consumers and farmers on the balance between supply and demand.

However, extreme volatility can create major difficulties not only for individual businesses but also for an entire sector or state. The existing instruments should be used to protect farmers from such situations.

Finally, he referred to the importance of market transparency.

An improved system is needed to expand and enhance the quality and accuracy of the data collected and made publicly available on market prices at all levels of the food chain in the Member States.

The production of regular and timely forecasts on the agricultural prices plays an important role as well, and an improved common data collection framework for such information and forecast systems to be effective is required. During his intervention **Tierry de l'Escaille**, on the position of ELO regarding the agricultural market stabilization, underlined that CAP

should guarantee a fair price for the agricultural products as well as that farmers should benefit from a certain degree of income stability. Summarizing, he stated that ELO believes that policies aimed at improving market stabilization should have an important role within the CAP 2020.

**Tassos Haniotis**, commenting on OPERA's presentation stated that the increase of the agricultural products was much lower in comparison to elements such as energy, fertilizers, materials and minerals. Furthermore, he mentioned that the existing gap between the input and output prices of EU-27 should be covered by productivity.

**Andrzej Babuchowski**, indicated that for managing volatility attention should focus on the selection of the right tools as well as on the creation of new ones. Market transparency was again considered crucial for proper market functioning.

**Russell Mildon**, focused on the lack of market transparency and the differences between the Member States as factors that enforce the market instability.

Generally, the report attracted the interest of the audience and the OPERA was encouraged to continue its work in providing support and recommendations of pragmatic solutions to build a sustainable agricultural system in Europe.

The full report and the summary as well as the video of each presentation of the seminar are available for download here:

<http://www.opera-indicators.eu/eng/info/events/OPERA-seminar-the-Forum-for-the-Future-of-Agriculture-2011.html>



## Promoting with Environmental NGOs reflection and proposal for the future reform of the CAP

► The 8 July 2011 in Cremona was held the workshop “*Proposal for the future of the CAP*” organised by the largest Italian environmental association Legambiente in collaboration with Cremona Fiere.

Several experts representing most of the farmer associations, public bodies and private sectors reported their position and around 60 participants attended this event.

The purpose of this event was to discuss the proposals made by Legambiente especially related to two key elements: **achieving an equilibrium in the EU founding to farmers and define their needed link with the quality and the environment.**

Two presentations open the event and the discussion .

The first one made by the Director of OPE-RA (prof. **Ettore Capri**) and the second one made by the Economical sector of the Agricultural Ministry, dott. **Camillo Zaccarini Bonelli** (Ismea).

In the debate that followed, have participated giving valuable contributions **Antonio Piva** (President of Cremona Fiere), **Vittorio Cogliati Dezza** (President of Legambiente), **Giulio De Capitani** (councillor of agriculture of the Lombardia region), **Francesco Ferrante** (Environmental commission of the Italian Parliament), **Damiano Di Simine** (Legambiente Lombardia), **Paolo Mariggia** (Coldiretti), **Mario Lenucci** (Confagricoltura), **Guglielmo Donadello** (President of Cosepa), **Viller Boicelli** (Director of the Consorzio Italiano Biogas).

Reinforcing a transparent governance of the landscape with a modern agriculture respecting the characteristics of the Mediterranean agriculture characterised by a unique biodiversity in a jeopardised system of small and medium farm was the top one message.

This final objective will be to try to achieve it with a common agreement between all the organizations and institution represented in the event in order to promote an unique set of proposals to the European Union and deliver this position to the EU Parliament.

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# OPERA NETWORKING

## The Sustainable Use Directive and the evolution of agriculture in Romania

On the 22 March 2011 in Bucharest (Romania) was organized the symposium “The Sustainable Use Directive and the evolution of agriculture in Romania”, organized by FNPAP in collaboration with AIPROM/ ECPA. This seminar was a useful occasion to share idea experience and opinions relating to the implementation of the SUD. Furthermore, this event was focused on the particular Romanian context benefiting from the input of the Ministry for Agriculture. Around 70 people participated representing farmer organizations, authorities, industry, academia, etc. Several experts have been invited to partici-

ted bringing their own experience:

- **Daniel Botanoiu** (Vice-President FNPAP & Yves Picquet, President AIPROM), Welcome speech;
- **Claudia Michel** (Director Food & ECPA Agriculture Affairs, ECPA), Sustainable Use Directive - key requirements, implications on farms, timelines;
- **Marco Trevisan** (Head of the Department for Agricultural and Environmental Chemistry in the UCSC), Risk Indicator Selection and Quantitative Targets to meet SUD;
- **Romano de Vivo** (Head of Stakeholder Influencing & Sustainability EAME), Industry

running projects, useful tools for drafting the National Action Plan;

- **Cecilia Alexandri** (Expert on Food Policy, National Institute for Agriculture Economy) Food Security in Romania – concerns, facts, perspectives;
- **Emil Dumitru** (farmer, member of the Arbitrage Commission of FNPAP), The implementation of the Sustainable Use Directive in Romania – a farmer’s view.

To download the presentation:

<http://www.opera-indicators.eu/eng/info/news/176.html>



## Awarded the national best agro-energy practices through BIOENERGY ITALY 2011

Anci, Legambiente, CremonaFiere and the German foundation DLG, with technical support of Chimica Verde, set up, the National Best Practice Award **BIOENERGY ITALY 2011**, dedicated to farms and local authorities that offer the best examples of good agricultural practices applied in compliance with land use and natural resources, energy efficiency and the interests of agriculture and local communities. Prof. **Ettore Capri** (Director of OPERA as a member of the national scientific committee was responsible for criteria setting to evaluate

the various experiences. The award ceremony was held during the festival Vegetalia (Cremona - Italy, 18-20 March 2011).

Building on the success of the project it has been decided to implement a new edition in the next year with the same partners (Bioenergy 2012). The national best practice award will be maintained but updated based on the past experience and will be implemented with other activities involving students, farmers, academia and the general public.

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CREMONAFIERE



## The day of the fertilization

On 7 April in Paris, the French association of fertiliser industry (UNIFA) organised a conference “4<sup>ème</sup> journée de la fertilisation 2011” on the challenges the French fertilisers industry is currently facing.

OPERA was present with **Alexandru Marchis** (Policy team coordinator) that made a presentation where he stressed that the CAP reform should focus on EU productivity through technological progress; access to best production tools, sustainable intensification and more

money spent on R&D.

Furthermore, **Catherine Choquet** (Terrena) made a presentation about Developing “environmentally intensive” agriculture producing researches with the aim of “producing more while using less” (pesticides, fertilisers, water, etc.); by increasing the share of organic additives in fertilisers, reducing CO<sub>2</sub> emissions, etc. Other useful contributions were made by **Antoine Hoxha** (Fertilizer Europe) about ETS in fertilisers industry, by **Pierre Cazeneuve** (GCL

Developpement Durable) about Analysing the Bilan Carbone, by **Gilles Poidevin** (UNIFA) about decreasing “carbon leakage” possibility through the Bilan Carbone initiative and by **Christophe Rupp-Dahlem** (Roquette) about the opportunity related to the Green Chemistry.

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## OPERA and kids

### Together with NGOs for a sustainable education

► New educational projects are under development in Europe. One good example is the activity on going in Parma (Italy) directed by the Centro di Etica Ambientale ([www.centroeticambientale.it](http://www.centroeticambientale.it)), a no profit organisation where different public, religious and private bodies cooperate for ensuring an ethic food and environmental education.

OPERA is participating with the expertise of Prof. **Ettore Capri**.

One educational tool delivered is a magazine for the primary school quarterly issued.

This summer the second issue was published!

Furthermore, OPERA participated in May to the competition for the best audio-video on sustainable chemistry together with the students of the primary school "Il seme" (Fidenza). The subject was sustainable packaging with flexible plastics".

The award was set up by Ministero dell'Istruzione dell'Università della Ricerca, Federchimica and Società Chimica Italiana.

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## Symposium on the Sustainable Intensification of Agriculture (SIA)

► On the 23-24 June 2011 in Bracknell (UK) was held the Symposium on the Sustainable Intensification of Agriculture (SIA).

Several experts made important presentations regarding food security and the available tools to make agriculture more sustainable:

Prof. Dr. h.c. **Harald von Witzke**, Humboldt-Universität zu Berlin (Germany) Food safety, nutrition & health;

Prof **Montaña Cámara**, Universidad Complutense, Madrid (Spain);

Prof **Marco Trevisan**, UCSC (Italy)

Prof **Richard Pywell**, Centre for Ecology & Hydrology (UK)

Prof **Colin Brown**, York University (UK)

Dr **Marco Ferroni**, Syngenta Foundation for Sustainable Agriculture (Switzerland)

OPERA was present with **Alexandru Marchis** who delivered a presentation regarding "the roundtable Approach: Introduction to legislation and political challenges associated with Roundtables and experiences with OPERA.

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## Workshop on Environment and Climate Compatible Agriculture

► On the 11<sup>th</sup> July in Basel was held the workshop on "Environment and Climate Compatible Agriculture".

The objective was to develop a framework that maps and measures the impact of agriculture on the environment and climate change – including farming activity, loss and waste, and

land use change – based on a clear analysis of facts and research.

The general aim of the organizers (Syngenta and Yara) was to better understand how agricultural systems can be optimized to increase environmental value alongside productivity and profitability of farmers.

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## Other OPERA networking activities:

### 7 June, 2011 - Palermo (Italy)

Giornata per il diritto costituzionale alla salute.  
Organizzato da Fondazione Giuseppe Dossetti.  
Invited lecturer: Prof. **Ettore Capri**  
(Integrating the human and environmental risk assessment)

### Cremona (ANMVI)

Food safety and environment.  
Sustainability and climate changes, production and technical consequences on veterinary public health sector.  
Invited lecturer: Prof. **Ettore Capri**  
(Environment and Human Health: a mutual influence)

### 20 May - Milano (SETAC)

International Conference of the Society of Environmental Toxicology Chemistry.  
Oral Presentation by **Alexandru Marchis**

### 6 June - Bordeaux (F)

International conference on application technologies SUPOFRUIT 2011.  
Oral Presentation on biodepurations system by **Nicoleta Suciu** and **Ettore Capri**

### 30 August - Piacenza (I)

XIV Symposium Pesticide Chemistry.  
Invited lecturer: Prof. **Ettore Capri**  
(Pesticide risk reduction: opportunities and challenges)

### 4 May, - Arezzo (I)

ENOFORUM. The national conference on wine making.  
Invited lecturer: Prof. **Ettore Capri** (Sustainable viticulture and wine production)

### 1<sup>st</sup> March - Parma (I)

Ecopackaging and sustainable use of flexible plastic films.  
Invited lessons: **Lucrezia Lamastra**.

### 16 July - Verona (I)

Cantine Bolla. Conference organised by Gruppo Italiano Vini.  
Invited lecturer: Prof. **Ettore Capri**  
(Principle of sustainable viticulture)

### 18 June - Rivergaro (I)

Cantine Bonelli - Conference organised by Bonelli Vini.  
Invited lecturer: Prof. **Ettore Capri** (Why do we need sustainable agriculture?)

### 6 April - Milano (I)

NUTRIMI  
The National Conference on Nutrition.  
Invited lecturer: Prof. **Ettore Capri** (ECO packaging: mito o realtà?)

For further information about each of these event, please contact:  
[info@opera-indicators.eu](mailto:info@opera-indicators.eu)

## Food Security, an European and global challenges. Hearing in the European Parliament AGRI Committee

Wednesday, May 25<sup>th</sup> was held in Brussels, in the Hemicycle of the European Parliament, a hearing chaired by **Paolo De Castro**, President of the Agriculture and Rural Development Committee, to discuss on the theme "Food Security, an European and global challenges". The special invitee was **Romano Prodi**, former president of the European Commission. "The future cannot fail to find solution to the

problem of food security" began De Castro, his intervention where he highlighted the main challenges faced the European agriculture today. In the speech that followed, **Romano Prodi** added that "the problem of food security is less discussed due to the general economic and financial problems, but it is undoubtedly more important".

According to data reiterated by Prof. **Prodi**, we are facing a new era, where world's population will soon go from 7 billion to 9 billion people, out of these, 2 billion today and 3 billion in 2050, living on less than \$ 3 a day.

According to Prodi's opinion, continuing with current policies, "the food crisis will be back!

Even the scientific data show

a trend towards food shortages. And therefore it is shared the alarm raised by the FAO." He mentioned that there are already many signs of an international struggle for food, and for the first time in history there is a struggle for land that produces food. FAO speaks of neo-colonial attitudes: China.

South Korea, and even the Gulf Countries are acquiring territories in Africa. There are talks of negotiations over 60 million hectares, which transforms the issue in a subject economic and political strategic nature.

To download the full article, please visit:  
<http://www.opera-indicators.eu/eng/info/news/192.html>



## Public consultation on the “Bio-based economy for Europe: state of play and future potential”

Based on the address of the technological and societal challenges in building the bio-economy in the next 10 years, the European Commission proposes to put forward in action a “*European Strategy and Action Plan towards a sustainable bio-based economy by 2020*”.

This new strategy will propose a framework for stronger coherence between the various policies and funding instruments in EU and Member State level, and a better alignment of

the research agendas for innovation in the bio-economy.

A bio-based economy integrates the full range of natural and renewable biological resources, biodiversity and biological materials through to the processing and the consumption of these bio-resources.

The sustainable exploitation of biological resources will require careful use of land, more and better use of the oceans and needs to take

account of new technologies if it is to deliver more while at the same time reducing biodiversity loss and protecting the environment.

The following link allows you to see the contributions of the public in consultation opened by the Commission on this subject:

[http://ec.europa.eu/research/consultations/bioeconomy/consultation\\_en.htm](http://ec.europa.eu/research/consultations/bioeconomy/consultation_en.htm)

## Conference in the European Parliament “Pollinators and Agriculture in Europe”

On Tuesday 28<sup>th</sup> of June 2011, at the European Parliament, European Crop Protection Association and the ELO organized a stakeholder workshop entitled “*Pollinators & Agriculture in Europe*”.

During the opening, made by the Chair of the EP “Agriculture and Rural Development” Committee, **Paolo De Castro** mentioned that the European Commission and the European Council as well should fight against bee mortality.

He stated that it is their duty to support sustainability, environment and biodiversity and the reform of the CAP seems to be an important opportunity to maintain high attention on this topic.

Important contributions were made by Professor **Potts**, (University of Reading), Csaba Tabajdi (the rapporteur of the European Parliament about “Honeybee health and the challenges for the beekeeping sector”) and **Astrid Lulling**, (Member of the European Parliament),

**Thierry de l'Escaille** referred to the lack of political action and the need to work towards this direction.

Furthermore, it was stated that research and innovation are two factors that will enforce not only the pollinators but also the sustainable agriculture.

To download the full article please visit:

<http://www.opera-indicators.eu/eng/info/news/bee-health.html>

## Conference in the European Parliament. Shaping the future of water for agriculture

On Tuesday 12<sup>th</sup> of July 2011, was organized by the European Bureau for Conservation and Development, at the European Parliament a meeting regarding to “*Shaping the future of water for agriculture*”.

The meeting was co-chaired by the MEPs **Luis Manuel Capoulas Santos** and **Cristina Gutierrez-Cortines**.

Several experts addressed relevant presentations such as **Martin Scheele**, Head of Unit responsible for Environment, Genetic Resources and European Innovation Partnership of DG Agriculture, who presented “*The policy issue under the on-going reform of the CAP*”; **Kevin**

**Parris**, Agricultural Policy Analyst of OECD that delivered the presentation: “*Sustainable management of water in agriculture: Policy challenges in the EU*”.

Key policy challenges to improve the sustainable management of water resources includes ensuring for strong and high level political commitment to water policy and institutional reforms; the consideration of a mix of policy instruments, including regulation (e.g. for ground-water), economic instruments (subsidies and taxes); **Stuart Rutherford**, Director of Environmental Affairs of ECPA with “*Demonstrating Water Protection Practices in Agricultu-*

*ral Catchments- The ECPA TOPPS- provadis project*”; **Sergiy Moroz**, Water Policy Officer of WWF, on his presentation about “*Measuring water use for agricultural production: the concept of water footprint*” and last but not least, **Juan Cànovas**, Chief of Natural Resources Department of Murcia's Institute of Research and Development on Agriculture and Foods about “*Innovative solutions for irrigation*”.

To download the full article, please visit:

<http://www.opera-indicators.eu/eng/info/events/shaping-the-future-of-water-for-agriculture.html>





- 22 September 2011, Budapest  
Workshop on the implementation of SUD in Hungary
- End of September 2011, Brussels  
5<sup>th</sup> Stakeholder Roundtable on CAP reform:  
**"How much greening makes the CAP green?"**
- End of October 2011, Brussels  
Second BROWSE stakeholder consultation
- End of November 2011, Brussels  
Third BROWSE stakeholder consultation

## Recent publications

- Land grabbing: is the EU the largest net importer of agricultural produce and 'virtual' land?  
[http://www.opera-indicators.eu/assets/files/News/Final\\_Report\\_Humboldt\\_Opera.pdf](http://www.opera-indicators.eu/assets/files/News/Final_Report_Humboldt_Opera.pdf)
- Landscapes- Why good field margin management is important and how it can be achieved.  
<http://www.opera-indicators.eu/assets/files/Documents/Private/FiNAL%20Field%20margins.pdf>
- Selecting the right Risk Indicators to successfully implement the Sustainable Use Directive.  
[http://www.opera-indicators.eu/assets/files/Documents/Private/10040\\_Syn\\_IndicatorPaper\\_05.qxd.pdf](http://www.opera-indicators.eu/assets/files/Documents/Private/10040_Syn_IndicatorPaper_05.qxd.pdf)
- Risk Indicator selection and Quantitative Targets to meet Sustainable Use Directive objectives  
<http://www.opera-indicators.eu/eng/info/news/1179.html>
- Agricultural Market Stabilization System – policy instruments to be included in the CAP  
[http://www.opera-indicators.eu/assets/files/News/cap/REPORT\\_Agricultural%20Markets%20Stabilisation-%20OPERA%20Policy%20Recommendation.pdf](http://www.opera-indicators.eu/assets/files/News/cap/REPORT_Agricultural%20Markets%20Stabilisation-%20OPERA%20Policy%20Recommendation.pdf)
- On Farm Water Management and How can it be achieved Through Bio Purification Systems  
<http://www.opera-indicators.eu/assets/files/Documents/biobeds/Bio%20purification%20Systems-%20water%20management.pdf>
- OPERA vision on the future of the CAP - Contributions to the Commission consultation process on Common Agricultural Policy after 2013  
<http://www.opera-indicators.eu/assets/files/News/cap/Vision%20on%20CAP%20post%202013.pdf>
- SOStain sustainable Development Report

## Policy briefs

- OPERA contribution to public consultation on Common Agricultural Policy after 2013 June 2010  
<http://www.opera-indicators.eu/assets/files/Documents/Private/OPERA%20contribution%20to%20CAP%20debate.pdf>
- Highlights of the Commission conference: "Common Agricultural Policy after 2013"  
<http://www.opera-indicators.eu/assets/files/News/cap/COM%20conf%20CAP%20post%202013.pdf>

## New staff

▶ OPERA would like to welcome new collaborators that are going to be part respectively of the OPERA offices in Piacenza and Brussels.



**Dr. Elisa Novelli** ([elisa.novelli@opera-indicators.eu](mailto:elisa.novelli@opera-indicators.eu))

Elisa graduated from the Faculty of Agriculture at the Department of Horticulture of University of Florence, where she was specialized on the field of environmental pollution and phytoremediation and holds a Master in Oenology and Sommellerie in the Department of Institute of Oenology and Food Engineering of UCSC in Piacenza. She was awarded a PhD in Doctoral School Agrisystem of UCSC in the scope of the Project NATO Science of Peace "Preventive and Remediation Strategies for Continuous Elimination of Poly-Chlorinated Phenols from Forest Soils and Ground Waters" (SfP – 981674). Elisa will be part of the OPERA Piacenza Office.



**Mr. Federico Melchioli** ([federico.melchioli@opera-indicators.eu](mailto:federico.melchioli@opera-indicators.eu))

Dr. Federico received a Bachelor Degree Economics at the University of Ferrara. During his studies he was able to develop several work experiences, one of them in Confcooperative Ferrara where he developed organizational skills, teamwork spirit and research abilities. Furthermore, in order to expand his academic horizons, he decided to pursue the International Master in Innovation, Development and Change at the University of Bologna. This is in order to broaden his knowledge in the fields of development of local systems of production, international political analysis, international organizations and last but not least, project planning and monitoring and evaluation. Federico will be part of OPERA Brussels Office.



**Ms. Chiara Bolognini** ([chiara.bolognini@opera-indicators.eu](mailto:chiara.bolognini@opera-indicators.eu))

Chiara holds a Master's Degree in Communication Sciences from University La Sapienza of Rome and a Master's Degree in Online Journalism at Birmingham City University. Chiara combines several years experience in national and multinational contexts – both in Rome and Switzerland, where she moved in 2007 - with a solid communications and web management background. She brings a profound grasp of the dynamics of the web arena and mastery of the tools and timing of effective communications. Chiara will be working as OPERA Communications Officer.

In the next newsletter, the new project of OPERA starting soon in the late 2011:

- **CIBO PIACE SANO** (Federconsumatori)
- **HEROIC** (7<sup>th</sup> EU RTD)
- **Viticultura Sostenibile** (Ministero Ambiente)