

Opera newsletter

5

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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 or contact us: info@opera-indicators.eu

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Protect farmers through price and production stabilization

The success in reaching the successive objectives established for the CAP has been strongly connected with its instruments to ensure market stability. This provided for a better environment to develop farming and a grater appetite for investment in new and productive technologies. CAP has gradually switched support from market and price management to direct payments. This market-oriented CAP means that farmers must take the responsibility for managing those risks that were formerly absorbed by market and price support policies.

No doubt about it, the fluctuations in the markets also gravely influence the income of the farmers and indirectly their production decisions in the future. The high peaks of the price fluctuations are not transmitted properly to the production activity; hence their influence on the production decisions does not reflect the market trends.

According to the OPERA work program approved by the OPERA Scientific Committee, since 2010 a new working group on Agricultural Markets has been set up. The contribution of renowned agricultural economists around Europe in this working group allowed the elaboration of a proposal for a policy approach to develop a System for the Stabilization of the European Agricultural Markets. **The system is described in the OPERA paper "Agricultural Market Stabilization System – policy instruments to be included in the CAP" that propose to review the possible policy and technological options to address market stability seen from both ends of the food chain.**

These instruments can include, but are not limited to, measures related to: supply and demand management; price management; capital structure, credit, hedging, insurance, and technology. The proposal is based

on the existing CAP system for market stability which needs to be improved but not radically reformed.

For further information and registration please visit our website at: <http://www.opera-indicators.eu/eng/info/events/OPERA-seminar-the-Forum-for-the-Future-of-Agriculture-2011.html>

The paper will be presented in the **OPERA seminar @ Forum for the Future of Agriculture**, 14th March 2011 Brussels, Belgium by Prof. **D. Rama**, UCSC in a panel hosted by **Thierry de l'Escaille**, Secretary General of ELO.

The working group is composed of:

- Prof. **Allan Mathews**, Trinity College Dublin
- Mr. **Russell Mildon**, Former Director for market management DG AGR1
- Prof. **Harald von Witzke**, Humboldt University of Berlin
- Prof. **Konstadinos Mattas**, Aristotle University of Thessaloniki
- Prof. **Giovanni Anania**, University of Calabria
- Prof. **Daniele Rama**, UCSC
- Prof. **Gabriele Canali**, UCSC
- Mr. **Stefan Scheppers**, Hon. Director General European Institute Public Administration
- Mr. **Frank De Jonghe**, Deloitte

Secretariat of the group:

Mr. **Alexandru Marchis**, Policy Team Coordinator OPERA





TALKING ABOUT... SUSTAINABILITY

Sustainability through...

► The EU directive 128/2009 requires Member States to develop a legislative framework and National Action Plan (NAP) with the aim of reducing the potential risk associated with use of the pesticides

OPERA published the paper “Risk Indicator selection and Quantitative Targets to meet Sustainable Use Directive objectives” in order to assist member states authorities in defining a system to measure step by step improvements made in risk reduction, following the implementation of the Directive and its corresponding NAPs.

On the 27th of January, 2011 OPERA organized in Brussels a seminar to present the report. The authorities from the majority of the member states were represented at the seminar. The panel discussion which followed the presentation of the OPERA report was conducted with the contributions of **Patrizia Pitton**, representing the European Commis-

Risk Indicators



sion DG SANCO, **Luc Peeters** the chairman of the COPA-COGECA working group on phytosanitary issues and **Ettore Capri**, Director of OPERA.

The publication presented by prof. **Ettore Capri**, proposed for consideration a pragmatic and easy to implement toolbox of measures, indicators and quantitative targets to reduce the risk associated with pesticide use.

In the intervention, on behalf of the Commission Mrs. **Pitton** stressed the relevance of the report and the novelty of the approach on indicators, that OPERA suggested in the monitoring of the progress achieved in risk reduction. She also mentioned the importan-

ce of a harmonized approach and the difficulty to achieve a balance between technical aspects, pragmatism of implementation and resources that can be used for monitoring.

Luc Peeters, on behalf of COPA-COGECA, in his intervention highlighted that authorities should provide workable solutions to the farmers and then create the framework through indicators to communicate the progress to the society.

Furthermore he expressed his satisfaction on OPERA's approach on multi-stakeholder consultation in the development of the recommendation.

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...

► With the coming into force of the recently adopted European Directive 128/2009/EC on the sustainable use of pesticides it becomes a requirement for all the European Member States to find the solutions to protect surface and ground water as well as all sources of drinking water supplies. Solutions to mitigate and prevent unwanted levels of substances reaching water bodies in the most easy and cost effective way is a task to be undertaken by all public bodies, private industries and scientific researchers.

Management of contaminated liquids (remnants or collected washings) is critical but to date in many countries the aspects of remnant management has not received the necessary attention and clear recommendations and/or codes of practice are missing.

OPERA published the paper” **On Farm Water Management and How can it be achieved Through Bio Purification Systems**” in order to offer practical information on how to im-

Bio-purification

plement at farm level a simple system for reducing this potential risk of point sources contamination from the in-site area where the PPPs are disposed and handled.

The advantages of bio-purification systems bring an important contribution to the implementation of on-farm water management. Some of them have the ability to treat a large volume of contaminated water and some are able to operate in fast cycles, where a big volume of water is filtered in short period of time. Their great advantage is that they are valid and accessible systems for the removal of residues from water.

The adoption of these simple and efficient systems, easily adaptable to different climatic conditions using materials available on the farm (organic materials), will help farmers to become more sustainable and competitive. Such innovative methods for farm water management should benefit from the proper training and support of the National Autho-



rities as well as from the involvement of the equipment providers.

A series of supporting measures need to be put in place by National Authorities such as **promoting Good Agricultural Practice in farm water management**.

The performance of the bio-purification systems provides solutions to avoid unwanted risks of pesticide use but also comply with legislative requirements.

In order to get the full report please consult regularly our website.

Sustainability through... **BROWSE**

BROWSE (**B**ystanders, **R**esidents, **O**perators and **W**orker**S** Exposure models for plant protection products) is a multi-institutional project between eight different institutions funded by European Commission under the 7th 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.



BROWSE started in January 2011 involving several partners: The Food and Environment Research Agency (United Kingdom), Alterra (Centre for Water and Climate, Wageningen, Netherlands), Benaki Phytopathological Institute (Greece), The Arable Group (United Kingdom), TNO (Netherlands), University of Gent (Belgium), OPERA/Università Cattolica del Sacro Cuore (Italy), University of Newcastle (United Kingdom).

OPERA will contribute significantly to BROWSE activities on stakeholder consul-

tation, the development of risk indicators and the development of new types of communication and training material.

At present, OPERA is co-organising a workshop (it will be held in Brussels on 14-15 April) that will focus on the opinions of different stakeholders about the scope, objectives and priorities of BROWSE, and their expectations regarding the project outcomes, implications for policy, operator and worker training and risk communication.

If you would like to have more information about the project, please contact the project coordinator at: Andy.Hart@fera.gsi.gov.uk.

Sustainability through... **SOStain**



SOStain, 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). OPERA is responsible for the scientific, technological and methodological innovation of the project, and for the selection and development of sustainability indicators.

The co-operating farms, assembled in a non-profit organization (ASV, Alliance for Sustainable Agriculture), collaborate with OPERA in order to ensure the continuous update and



improvement of all the elements of the SOStain program.

SOStain is based on a four-step quality model – which is a continuous improvement cycle. Assessment over time is the key element of this self-improvement model. The model is designed to ensure confidentiality, extensive participation and collective progress along the continuum of sustainability. The cycle

illustrates the process-based view of sustainable wine production, and consists of self-assessment, the interpretation of performance, action planning and the implementation of change. Sustainable wine production is a process of repeated appraisal and sensible progress consistent with site-specific constraints and circumstances.



The project has developed the SOStain 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.

For further information:

- visit our new website: www.able2sustain.com
- watch our video: <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=3zqs0xhvHUo>,
- email us: contact@able2sustain.com



TALKING ABOUT... A SMART CAP

Contribution to the **Commission Consultation for the Impact Assessment of the CAP** towards 2020.

► Opera has participated to the second consultation process of the Commission on the future of CAP.

The consultation for the Impact Assessment of the Common Agricultural Policy 2020 aims at informing and allowing stakeholders to submit their views on the problem definition, reform objectives and scenarios proposed, gathering facts and analytical documents to help the impact assessment.

As part of the preparation of legislative proposals for the Common Agricultural Policy after 2013, scheduled for mid-2011, the Commission Services solicit input from interested parties to complete the diagnosis and exploration of options for reform outlined in the Communication **“Meeting the food, natural resources and territorial challenges of the future”** and in the consultation document for the impact assessment.

The **Policy Scenarios**, recently presented, are focused on the intensity of the reform and the emphasis is on certain components of the policy. The present scenarios can be improved through a combination of the approaches as together, the policy scenarios answer in general terms to the reform objectives and to certain elements of the Europe 2020 strategy

related to sustainable, inclusive and smart growth.

The issue of food security in Europe, from the perspective of the access of consumers to products reasonable priced is not fully covered.

We feel that the negative influence of the economic crisis on farmers as well as on consumers has not been sufficiently reflected in the problem setting for the future CAP.

The last data indicate significant difficulties from the farmers perspective in financing their activity.

An important role could play a much stronger alternative instrument to ensure market stability. Similarly, there is no positive evolution of the instruments as to respond to the objective to promote innovation and technology. Smart growth is only possible if the policy is able to identify a dynamic way to satisfy technological needs of the farming sector and to promote those solutions.

The most important impact of the CAP reform policy scenarios might be related to the farmer's income. It is also expected that the reform will generate a series of chain reactions to improve the functioning of the food supply chain. It is of great importance that the

food chain actors have been included in the policy to balance the bargaining power along the agro - food chain.

Sustainable production techniques and good farm management practices would ensure the bases for a long term competitiveness of European agriculture.

One must not forget that the environmental challenges must be dealt within the agriculture production, but its management is in the hands of the farmers.

No policy scenario will lead to renationalization of payments, with negative impact on internal market for agricultural products, with negative effects on all agricultural players.

No policy scenario may also have an impact on competitiveness on world market, higher imports, speculation and price volatility, low income for farmers, higher agricultural commodity prices.

From the perspective of **monitoring and evaluation instruments in the CAP**, we should avoid in any policy scenario the increase of the administrative burden.

Any red tape or excessive obligations related to the environmental conditions should be avoided. There is a need for a simple to use system of synthetic indicators for better understanding and monitoring of the following elements:

- general economic and social status of the farmer
- market volatility
- competitiveness
- food chain structure
- investment in new technologies and processes
- provision of environmental services

The OPERA submission to the public consultation conducted by the European Commission on the reform of the CAP can be downloaded here:

<http://www.opera-indicators.eu/eng/info/Documents-on-CAP.html>



Public goods in CAP

The role of rural development measures.

▶ OPERA continued its series of open debates with the **fourth edition of Roundtable of Stakeholders on CAP Reform** (2nd of December 2010 in Brussels) organized with the support of the Delegation in Brussels of Regione Lombardia.

Imagining the European agriculture after 2013 Reform, taking into consideration the preliminary remarks, **it looks like we are aiming for a sustainable and more competitive one, a multifunctional activity aiming at harmonizing apparently contrasting challenges.**

Natural resources and food production on one side and sustainability and economic aspects on the other, have to be considered with a bipolar but complementary approach in order to build a balanced and effective CAP. Research and innovation technology will be essential to help and assist farmers during the shift from the conventional agriculture to a new shaped and competitive one.

The issue this time was "Integrating public goods in CAP - the role of rural development measures" and Mrs. **Loretta Dormal-Marino**, Deputy Director General DG AGRI, European Commission, set the scene for our debate on the possible avenues to be explored within the CAP.

The introduction made by Mr. **Gianlorenzo Matrini**, Director of the Lombardy Region Delegation in Brussels, underlined the importance of the second pillar in supporting the local and regional development.

From the regional perspective, he was very keen to show the necessity to support agricultural production as it is the basis for the economic and social development.



Agriculture is the sector which brings not only food, but also cultural richness in Europe. Hence, it is paramount to realize that, once destroyed, the social system based on agriculture is not likely to come back.

The Commission official has underlined the approach taken in basing the future policy on two pillars. In this context the rural development program will continue to have an important role especially in relation to stimulating the provision of public goods.

But, there is a strong need to circumvent the term of "public goods" to specific elements, as the general meaning of the term is too broad to be used without a proper definition. It should be spelled out the different categories of public goods, like: food security; food safety; biodiversity protection; landscape management; water protection etc.

In developing the Communication, the Commission services have taken into account the **three main categories of challenges** that

European agriculture is facing, namely the economic, environmental and territorial challenges.

These are very much reflected in the three objectives set for the future CAP: competitiveness; sustainable management of natural resources and territorial development.

More importantly, from our point of view, is the objective to support and promote research



and innovation in the agricultural activity.

The possibility to create public-private partnerships to develop and implement sustainable solutions bridging the interest of the agricultural activity with the environmental objectives open a whole new pathway for development.

You can download here the outcome of the debate and the reflection paper we prepared to stimulate the debate:

<http://www.opera-indicators.eu/eng/info/news/Outcome-of-4th-OPERA-Roundtable-of-Stakeholders.html>





OPERA NETWORKING

Using Field margins to increase biodiversity

▶ OPERA has been invited to participate to the European Biodiversity Conference “Sustainable Agriculture supporting European Biodiversity” that has taken place on the 7th December in the European Parliament in

Brussels. The director of OPERA **Ettore Capri** gave a presentation on “The role of field margins in enhancing biodiversity and the importance of the management of multifunctional landscapes”.

To download the presentation:

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

The need of a “smart CAP”

▶ The 8th December 2010 in the European Parliament was held the “Meeting on Sustainable agriculture and competitiveness in the framework of the new CAP” chaired by Luis Manuel Capoulas Santos (MEP and chair of the subgroup “agriculture” of the intergroup “Climate Change, Biodiversity and Sustaina-

ble development”) with the participation of Dancian Ciolos (European Commissioner for Agriculture).

Opera, with prof. Ettore Capri, has participated to this meeting with a presentation on “Innovative solutions to foster agricultural productivity in a sustainable way”.

To download the presentation:

<http://www.opera-indicators.eu/eng/home.html>

OPERA and kids

▶ On 29th January in Parma was held the congress “Alimentazione e Ristorazione sostenibile” (sustainable nutrition and catering) promoted within the project “Crescere in armonia Educare al BenEssere”.

The objective of the project is to reflect about the good practises and the sustainability in the food sector focusing on the quality of the food, the protection of the environment and the human health.

Our Director prof. Ettore Capri was one of the invited speakers and was actively participated in the development of the project.

Our presence in this meeting is considered as an inauguration of new activities - the children education about sustainability.



For more information about this events, please visit:

http://www.cabiria.net/crescere_in_armonia/

New educational project are under development at European and regional level.

One good example is the activity on going with the Centro di Etica Ambientale in Parma city (www.centroeticambientale.it) such as the publication of the magazine “Metropolino” for the primary schools.

To download the presentation:

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



National best agricultural practices award BIOENERGY ITALY 2011

▶ Anci, Legambiente, CremonaFiere and the German foundation DLG, with technical support of ChimicaVerde, set up, starting this year, 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.

Based on these criteria it was made a questionnaire in order to get all the needed information from farms local communities. The award ceremony will be held during the festival Vegetalia (Cremona, Italy, 18-20 March 2011).

For further information, please contact:

gabriele.sacchettini@opera-indicators.eu



Geopolitics of Food: implications for ACP countries

The 2nd of February on the Charlemagne building in Brussels was held the conference about the “**Geopolitics of Food: implications for ACP countries**” organized by CTA (The Technical Centre for Agricultural and Rural Cooperation).

The event was introduced by **Isolina Boto**, Head of CTA, **Michael Hailu**, Director of CTA and by Dr. **Mohamed Ibn Chambas**, Secretary-General of the ACP Group.

The two panels of the conference were composed of experts from organizations like FAO, CaFAN (Caribbean Farmer's Network) and WTO.

Introducing the discussion about Geopolitics of Food, **M. Hailu** underlined the issue that a wide range of factors affect agricultural production of the developing ACP countries, starting from the climate change, the growth of population, the water scarcity and the global land acquisition: technical innovation and policy should step to support ACP countries.

With its current level of resources, production of food has to become more efficient by making further investments (for instance in ecologically crop nutrition and protection), in order to satisfy the request of food to feed 9 billion people by 2050.

The main goal of ACP is to promote a sustainable agriculture in order to eradicate hunger by making food cheap and affordable for everyone, especially by promoting new solutions developed through research and innovation.

M.I.Chambas with his speech, stressed the relevance of the huge problem of worldwide hunger and of the systemic food crisis of ACP countries: in fact one billion people in the world are insecure about the food and have problems to get access to it.

H. Herren, President of the Millennium Institute, in his intervention mentioned the need of growth of agriculture in the right places of the world and the need of future food production systems that should be ecological intensive.

Hence, and finding a way to produce more and better food while consuming fewer resources. He suggested even to consider agriculture not only as a single factor system but as a multiple system which is tight connected to environmental, economic and social factors: thus it's even linked with policy.

But, how should policy behave in the future?

New forms of food governance at global, regional and local level will be required, in fact how global agricultural and trade policies will develop will be determinant to stabilize the global food system and improve the livelihoods of millions of poor farmers.

Furthermore the missing link between policy, research and farmers should be created, in order to bring modernization and innovation to rationalize and maximize agricultural land and to build food security and economic stability in ACP countries.

For further materials click on the link:

<http://brusselsbriefings.net>

The meeting of European Bureau for Conservation and Development (EBCD) about “The life cycle of Water and Biodiversity”

The 9th of February 2011, took place at the European Parliament the meeting about “**The life cycle of Water and Biodiversity**” organized by the European Bureau for Conservation and Rural Development (EBCD).

The panel was chaired by MEP **Cristina Gutierrez-Cortines**, Chair of the group “Water” of the European Parliament Intergroup “Climate Change, Biodiversity and Sustainable Development” and by **Theodoros Skylakakis**, member of EPP and ENVI Committee. The other members of the panel were, **Claudia Olazabal**, Deputy Head of Unit “Biodiversity” (DG ENV); **Tobias Salathe**, Senior adviser Europe, Ramsar Convention Secretariat; **Rob D'Hondt**, Water Awareness and Water Stewardship Assistant of European Water Partnership (EWP) and **Dick Maes**, Senior researcher at the Research Institute for Nature and Forest (INBO) and board member of Butterfly Conservation Europe.

Claudia Olazabal highlighted that the target of EU for 2020 and the vision for 2050 is the development of a new biodiversity policy not only on European but also on global level.

The restoration agenda over the next 10 years focuses on the synergies with WFD & GES in 2015 and WSFD & GES for 2020.

She concluded her presentation by reminding to the audience that there is still a lot of room

to affect the Member States and the National Authorities towards the contribution and work for this target, while she also mentioned the importance of the fully support of the private sector. Furthermore, she stated that the importance of the improvement of the distribution of knowledge and the share of biodiversity information.

During the discussion that followed there was stated the need of targeted and fast advice for the farmers. Additionally, there was presented the need for mapping the ecosystems and the plan of restoring the ones needed within the next 10 years.

Tobias Salathe at his presentation underlined the importance of the wetlands. Furthermore, he stressed the link between wetlands and biodiversity.

Examples such as the provision of habitat for threatened plants and animals, for specific populations and for critical stages in species' life cycles supported his statement.

During the third presentation the speaker, **Rob D'Hondt**, briefly presented the Water Stewardship as a standard to change the behaviour towards Sustainable Water Management (SWM).

In 2010 the program was put in action and validated through the pilot phase. In 2011 it is

planned to be implemented as business case. The validation phase is important in order to avoid very high or very low quality standards.

Dick Maws, highlighted the importance of butterflies as good indicators as well as good ambassadors of healthy wetlands due to their biology, while were also presented the main threats for butterflies that are the infrastructure development and urbanization and the pollution.

During the debate that followed, stated the need of the economical support of the ecosystems that is possible to derive from the existing subsidies by re-evaluating their need.

Furthermore, there was discussed the benefit for the farmers by the growth of the biodiversity in the matter of healthy soil that provides organic matter and higher fertility, the protection of the physical enemies and the advantages by insects' pollination to the function of the farm.

The need of partnership between stakeholders, the NGO's and the private sector to achieve the objectives has been highlighted as well as the importance of the economic value created in such activities. These economical studies will also help decision makers and set the grounds for responsibility sharing among actors.

The conference of European Environmental Bureau about “EU Environmental Achievements and Future Challenges”

A tribute to the outgoing Secretary General **John Hontez** was the conference of European Environmental Bureau (Brussels, 18th of February 2011) During the welcome speech by the president **Mikael Karlsson**, was underlined the important role of **John Hontez** during his term as a secretariat, while the new Secretary General **Jeremy Waters** was welcomed.

Regarding to the role of European Union on environment's protection was stated the need of implementation of the existing rules and was highlighted the important role of the NGOs on it. The Secretary General of the European Commission,

Catherine Day set the year 2020 as the next step for sustainable development where there should put emphasis on the connection of the targets.

Attention should be paid by the EU on the human rights' and the respect of the environment stated **Joel Decaillo**, executive secretary of European Trade Unions Confederation, while he underlined the need for the collaboration of all the sectors to achieve this.

He gave the clear message that the capacity of the EU is to set democracy as basic pillar:

Regarding the effectiveness of the environmental policy the General Director of DG Environment

stated there is further improvement to be made in all the fields and that legislation is an essential instrument in order to reach our targets. Furthermore, he highlighted the need of being aware of how the directives and regulations should be implemented. Finally, the role of NGOs on growing environmental awareness and their educative role on environmental policy for the candidate countries were highlighted.

Furthermore, was stated the important network they create between the EU instruments and the local stakeholders.



OPERA NEWS

FORTHCOMING EVENTS

- **14 March, Bruxelles**
OPERA seminar at Forum for Agriculture 2011
- **14-15 April, Bruxelles**
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
- 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
- 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
- On Farm Water Management and How can it be achieved Through Bio Purification Systems
- OPERA vision on the future of the CAP - Contributions to the Commission consultation process on Common Agricultural Policy after 2013

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 two new collaborators that since February have been part of the OPERA Brussels Office.



Dr. **Michele Carretta** (michele.carretta@opera-indicators.eu)

Michele obtained a Bachelor degree in Food Science and Technologies at UCSC in Piacenza, focusing the attention on technological and chemical aspects of foods. He completed a Master of Science in Food Quality and Safety at UCSC, where he gained the knowledge of food processing and food additives and residues. Both his thesis were held in collaboration between UCSC and two Italian food company, Saiwa Srl and Paren Srl, in this last he even took an internship experience as Food Technologist.



Dr. **Amalia Kafka** (amalia.kafka@opera-indicators.eu)

Amalia was graduated at the department of Plant Science of the Agricultural University of Athens, where she was specialized on the field of Plant Protection and Environment. As a postgraduate student, she continued her studies at Wageningen University of The Netherlands. She was awarded two Masters of Science, initially on the field of Food Safety and Food Quality Management and then on the field of Plant Science and Organic Plant Production. She participated in several research projects of the Agricultural University of Athens, of UCSC, of the Agricultural University of China and the European Food Safety Authority (EFSA).