

Proposal for a Special Issue of the ERAE

Bioeconomy supply and value chains within the context of a changing world order

Recent events at the international level, such as the war in Ukraine, the conflict between Hamas and Israel, and the expansion of the BRICS countries, are expected to impact agricultural supply networks and value chains. Agricultural supply and value chains include those providing food and feed, fuel, fiber, and further bio-based products (5Fs), hence the whole bioeconomy. The impact of these events on value chains that rely on, and form, the bioeconomy is not yet fully understood. In particular, disruptions to the global bioeconomy threaten key policy goals focused on achieving and maintaining sustainability and resilience of the world's supply of bio-based products. We need further understanding of the impact of climate change, technological change, and related policies on supply chain sustainability and resilience. Another area of research is the political economy of the supply chain; namely, the interest of societal groups, including policymakers and non-government organizations, is important. The multiplicity of factors and past rates of change challenge developing models oriented toward the future. However, new data sources and new models of supply chain economics provide new opportunities for further assessing the impacts of a changing world order on bioeconomy supply and value chains.

Call for Submissions

We are looking for papers that will address different aspects of bioeconomy supply and value chain, considering the recent changes mentioned above. The notion of the bioeconomy is broad, consisting of using natural resources and modern technologies to produce food, fuel, and chemicals. We look for empirical and conceptual papers. The contribution must be motivated by relevance and practical considerations.

Possible topics include:

1. International Agriculture Supply and Value Chains

- Impact of an enlarged BRIC on supply and value chains
- Effects of regulatory burden and government policies
- The role of investment incentives
- Impact of non-tariff-measure (NTMs)

2. Government Policy and Agriculture Supply and Value Chains

- Impacts of government policy on investment
- Role of supply chain regulations such as EU due diligence or IRA in the US
- Potential for public-private partnerships

3. Improving the Sustainability and Resilience of Bioeconomy Supply Chain

- Defining policy objectives with respect to sustainability and resilience
- Measuring sustainability and resilience improvements along supply chains
- Trade-offs between incentives, regulations, and due diligence tools on sustainability and resilience
- The impact of sustainability and resilience on profitability

4. **Society and Consumer Responses to Bioeconomy Innovations**

- Consumer willingness to pay for sustainability improvements.
- Role of society regarding innovation commercialization
- Bioeconomy knowledge and awareness

The special issue will invite papers presented at the ICABR 2024 conference in Ravello and an open call for submissions. The special issue will be edited by Carl Pray, Timothy Richards, Justus Wesseler, and David Zilberman. The review process will include three reviewers per paper. One of the reviewers will be drawn from the list of authors of the submitted papers. The other two reviewers will be experts who are not co-authors to reduce potential biases.

Some authors we expect to submit papers include Carolyn Fisher, who will deliver a keynote speech at the ICABR 2024 conference, Johannes Swinnen and Tom Reardon on supply chain resilience during COVID. We will also invite Philippe Aghion who has recently published a theoretical paper on value chains, and Pol Antràs, who recently edited a book with David Zilberman on *Risks in Agricultural Supply Chains*.

In total, we expect about 20 papers to be submitted, of which 8 to 12 papers are expected to meet the ERAE publication criteria. Papers that will be assessed of good quality but not fit well to the call for papers will be recommended for submission to *Q Open*.

After the formal review process, we will organize a one-day online workshop to discuss the internal linkages among the papers and eliminate any inconsistencies (or ensure they are adequately explained) such that the special issue presents a coherent message to the ERAE's readership.

Calendar proposal

- December 2023: publication of the call on the ERAE website as well as in the ICABR network and the ICABR website, on the EAAE, AAEA, AARES website, on the national associations of agricultural economists websites, on LinkedIn and Facebook, on the Economic Science Association (ESA)
- July 30, 2024: first draft of papers due
- October 30, 2024: first round of reviews due
- January 31, 2025, revised paper due
- March 31, 2025, second round of reviews due
- April 2025, workshop with the authors of the papers to be published
- June 30, 2025, final paper due.