

An analysis and some proposals for the improvement of the construction of the CAP 2021-2027 and a revision of the WFD.

The publication of two important scientific contributions drafted, by Prof. Fabrizio de Filippis on "*The common policy (CAP) and the management of water resources*" and by Prof. Pier Michele La Sala on "*The consumption of irrigation water in agriculture and the Italian agri-food industry*" offers an extensive and thorough material for research, analysis and comparison. The Consorzi di Bonifica, ANBI and *Irrigators d'Europe*, make this material available to all the interested parties in the world of agriculture and the water resource management. On the one hand, it encourages an open reflection that, from experts and authorised personnel in the field, it can be extended to economic operators, consumers and the entire public opinion. The aim is to inform and to educate readers on the strategic importance of the common agricultural policy, especially with regard to the efficient, sustainable and environmentally friendly management of water resources. On the other hand, the dissemination of the collected data is intended to encourage as many democratic participation processes that, at different levels, support political institutions in the construction of the next CAP 2021-2027 and in the revision of the WFD.

On the first issue, the analysis of the evolution of half a century of the CAP, highlights the strategic importance it has assumed for the development of the agricultural sector through a model of multi-functionality, which has given direct and indirect benefits to all the countries of the EU. Moreover, the ability of the CAP to adapt to changing times and contexts requires a stable and growing synergy between policy makers and stakeholders, who should work together for the construction and implementation of interventions. The collected data, highlight the criticalities that have emerged and outline ways of improving by using solutions that, in the areas of national autonomy, allow some flexibility on the contents that should be financed with the idea of achieving common and achievable objectives.

On the second issue, the publication illustrates the most significant elements needed in order to carry out the economic analysis of water resources which is a fundamental public good that both, directly and indirectly, performs a number of functions that need to be taken into consideration. The detection of the water footprint of products and, in any case, the deepening of the value of water resources is a necessary methodological approach that should guide us into adopting conscious and sustainable choices for the responsible use of water, especially in periods of limited availability. The main principle of recovering the cost of water, two decades after its introduction with the WFD, has not been properly implemented. The planned revision of the European legislation could probably be an opportunity for the reformulation or clarification of the meaning that is necessary in order to pursue common objectives, according to the different contexts of application.

The publication of the two scientific contributions is preceded by the presentations of Prof. Carlo Pilia, which, in order, are entitled "Towards an effectively shared CAP 2021/2027" and "From an economic analysis to the shared review of the critical issues of the WFD". On the one hand, the presentations highlight the main features of the issues that have been developed in depth in the writings of the two authors and, on the other hand, they identify some specific topics that, at least from the Italian perspective, could bring the attention of European institutions in the participatory processes of the construction of the CAP and the revision of the WFD.

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