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13TH EUROPEAN INTERNATIONAL FARMING SYSTEMS ASSOCIATION (IFSA) SYMPOSIUM, GREECE, 01- 05 JULY 2018

EDITORIAL

The European IFSA (International Farming Systems Association) Symposia are biennial events organized in rotation by European universities and research institutes involved in Farming Systems Research and Extension. The first symposium was organized in Edinburg in October 1993.

The 13th Symposium (www.ifsa2018.gr) was hosted in the Mediterranean Agronomic Institute of Chania (MAICH), Crete, Greece, by the Lab. of Agricultural Extension, Rural Systems & Rural Sociology, Dept. of Agricultural Economics & Rural Development, Agricultural University of Athens (AUA). It was co-organised by the Regional Unit of Chania and supported by the Geotechnical Chambers of Greece and the Hellenic Agricultural Organisation ELGO DIMITRA. It was also supported by the Journals Open Agriculture, International Journal of Agricultural Extension, African Journal of Agricultural Research and JAEE as media partners with the two first Journals organizing Special Issues comprising selected papers from the Symposium.

The general title of the Symposium was "Farming systems: facing uncertainties and enhancing opportunities". The Symposium comprised 5 Themes: Learning and knowledge systems, education, extension and advisory services; Agroecology and new farming arrangements; Integrating science, technology, policy and practice; Smart technologies in farming and food systems; and, Sustainable agrifood systems, value chains and power structures.

The Symposium programme comprised plenary sessions, parallel working group sessions (in which 171 papers were presented) and 6 panel discussions along with technical tours and cultural activities. The Symposium provided an opportunity to exchange ideas and experiences among university staff and researchers, professional personnel and others involved in Farming Systems Research and Extension.

The current special issue comprises 9 papers selected by the Theme convenors as being relevant to the Journal's scope and audience. I wish to thank the International Journal of Agricultural Extension (IJAE) for hosting this Special Issue and the authors for amending their (peer-reviewed) original manuscripts presented in IFSA, following the discussions which took place during the Symposium.

Alexandros Koutsouris

President of IFSA Steering Committee (2016-2018)

Head of the Lab. of Agricultural Extension, Rural Systems & Rural Sociology, Agricultural University of Athens, Greece.