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Katerina **Karapataki**, Conference Center Bureau of CIHEAM MAI.Chania

Christos **Staboulis**, Aristotle University of Thessaloniki

Eleni **Stamataki**, CIHEAM MAI.Chania

Argyro **Zervou**, Conference Center Bureau of CIHEAM MAI.Chania

Opening Address

H.E. Margaritis Schinas

Minister of Rural Development and Food

Hellenic Republic

Invited Speakers

Prof. Teodoro **Miano**, Secretary General of CIHEAM, Paris, France

Important dates

May 31st, 2026

Deadline submission of extended abstract

June 20th, 2026

Notification of acceptance of abstract

June 30th, 2026

End of early bird registration

July 31st, 2026

Deadline for final registration

October 31st, 2026

Deadline for submission of full papers for publication

Contact persons

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194eaae.maich.gr

194th EAAE Seminar

194eaae.maich.gr



International Conference on Matching Agri-Food Systems and Ecosystems via AI: Aligning Digital Innovation with Sustainability and Policy Goals

10-11 September 2026

Mediterranean Agronomic Institute of Chania, CIHEAM MAI.Chania
CHANIA, CRETE, GREECE

ORGANIZED BY



European Association of Agricultural Economists (EAAE) [eaae.org]



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Mediterranean Agronomic Institute
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Theme

Agri-food systems today face unprecedented challenges, driven by climate change, biodiversity loss, resource scarcity, and the growing demand for food security, as well as food quality and safety. These pressures highlight the urgent need to design more resilient, inclusive, and sustainable food systems that are aligned with ecosystem protection, biodiversity conservation and long-term societal goals. Digital innovation, and especially Artificial Intelligence (AI), offers promising tools to address these challenges. By enhancing knowledge transfer, identifying sustainable practices adapted to local conditions, and supporting data-driven decision-making, AI can help align agri-food systems with ecosystem needs. Such innovation can strengthen resilience, reduce vulnerabilities, and create synergies between technology, policy, and sustainability. At the same time, the policy dimension is crucial: The European Green Deal, the Farm to Fork Strategy, the Long-Term Rural Vision, and global climate and biodiversity commitments provide the framework within which digital innovation must be embedded. Aligning AI-driven solutions with these policy goals ensures that technological progress contributes effectively to environmental protection, rural development, food system resilience and meeting market-level preferences. This seminar aims to create a forum where researchers, practitioners, and policymakers can exchange insights on how to harness AI and digital tools in ways that serve sustainability objectives, reinforce policy priorities, and promote the transformation of agri-food systems in harmony with ecosystems.

Objectives

The 194th EAAE Seminar aims to provide a platform for dialogue on how Artificial Intelligence (AI) and digital innovation can contribute to aligning agri-food systems with ecosystems and sustainability goals. It seeks to promote the exchange of research and ideas, foster interdisciplinary discussion that links digital innovation with policy priorities, and generate insights to support evidence-based decision-making at European and international levels. Selected papers presented at the seminar will be published in an Editor's multi-authored book.

Topics

The seminar invites contributions that address the integration of Artificial Intelligence (AI), sustainability, and agri-food policy, while also covering broader socio-economic and environmental dimensions. Suggested topics include, but are not limited to:

- ➔ Emerging challenges in food systems and biodiversity protection
- ➔ Food systems' adaptability to climate change and external shocks
- ➔ AI and digital tools for sustainable agriculture and agri-food value chains
- ➔ Data-driven practices for reducing vulnerability and enhancing resilience
- ➔ The role of supply chains, trade and retail in sustainable consumption
- ➔ Biodiversity as a driver for economic growth and rural development
- ➔ Policy tools for environmental protection, biodiversity enhancement, and digital innovation
- ➔ Sustainable production in the framework of the CAP 2023–2027 and beyond
- ➔ Market demands, consumer behavior, and dietary choices in the digital era
- ➔ Opportunities and challenges of applying AI to support resilient and inclusive food systems
- ➔ Fostering sustainable entrepreneurship via generative AI in agri-food systems

Call for papers

Participants who would like to present a paper are requested to send an extended abstract (300 words) in English by May 31st, 2026. The abstract should include objectives, research questions, the theoretical framework, methodology, the main (expected) results and implications. The deadline for receiving the full papers for publication is 31st of October 2026.

Language

The working language of the seminar is English.

Registration

Deadline for early bird registration: **June 30th, 2026**

Deadline for final registration: **July 31st, 2026**

NB: All participants must be EAAE members.

Participation fee

Early bird registration UNTIL June 30th, 2026:

Participation fees have been set at **€320 (€210 for students)**

Registration AFTER June 30th, 2026:

Participation fees have been set at **€390 (€260 for students)**

Registration fees for Accompanying Persons have been set at **€150**.

The participation fees include:

Attendance to the conference, badges, coffee breaks, 2 light lunches, welcome reception and gala dinner.

IMPORTANT NOTICE: Participants of an EAAE seminar have to be members of the EAAE at the time of registration for the seminar. For those who are not yet members, the two-year EAAE membership fee from January 1, 2025 to December 31, 2026 is €100. This amount is to be paid in advance of registration to the 194th EAAE seminar, and only via the EAAE website, <https://eaae.org/>.

Cancellation policy

If cancellation is confirmed by August 31st, 2026, fees will be refunded, minus a cancellation fee of €50. Only written cancellation by e-mail will be accepted for refund purposes. In the case where the candidate has omitted to inform us of the cancellation, no fees will be refunded. Please note that after this date, no refund will be given.