Exploring and governing the economic drivers and management strategies of sustainable food chains and fostering innovation and vitality in rural areas.

The link between economy and ecosystems is key for the current transition towards sustainable circular agriculture and food systems. Economic and management research is essential to understand factors driving the behaviors of food chain actors and supporting evidence-based agriculture, food and Bioeconomy policies in rural economies.
Research at University of Bologna covers a wide range of issues:

- Analysis of global and local food chains, contracts and integration
- Food markets, competition, market access, market power and international trade
- Agro-food networks and districts, organisation of agro-food system
- Management strategies, organisation of agro-food firms, value creation and distribution, financial, fiscal and pricing issues
- Innovation systems, entrepreneurship, new product development and education in rural business
- Economic aspects of quality management systems, quality and food safety certifications, regulation, standards and traceability
- Food waste reduction strategies and resources efficiency in agriculture and food chains, with a focus on water
- Healthy and sustainable farming (including organic farming, agri-tourism)
- Economics of digitalisation of rural economies and food systems
- Socio-economic trends and labor markets
- Modelling of food supply, farming choices and productivity
- Analysis of policies and mechanisms to ensure sustainable production and resource efficiency for vibrant rural economies
- Interplay and synergies with the Bioeconomy development

HIGHLIGHTS

H2020 projects: **FIT4FOOD2030** - Establishing a sustainable, balanced, multi-stakeholder, multi-level platform (FOOD2030 Platform) to support the EC in further developing and implementing the FOOD 2030 policy framework and its action plan; **PROVIDE** - Providing smart delivery of public goods by EU agriculture and forestry; **SUFISA** - Sustainable finance for sustainable agriculture and fisheries; **NEXTFOOD** - Educating the next generation of professionals in the agrifood system; **LIFT** - Low-Input Farming and Territories - Integrating knowledge for improving ecosystem-based farming; **RUBIZMO** - Replicable business models for modern rural economies.

Spin Off: **LAST MINUTE MARKET** - Working on the recovery of unsold goods in favor of non-profit organizations with the objective of ZERO WASTE, i.e. all services offered are studied and designed to prevent and reduce losses and wastage; **Ergo consulting** – Providing services in support of rural policy evaluation and promoting territorial development through the application of the most innovative solutions.