#### ASSEGNO DI RICERCA “Innovazione e sostenibilità nella filiera agro-alimentare”

**Research project and activity plan**

**Research project**

The position is funded by the h2020 project: “CO-creating sustainable and competitive FRuits and vEgetableS’ value cHains in Europe”, grant agreement number 101000852. In particular, the activities will include working on the tasks T1.1, T1.2 and T.1.5. The content of the tasks follows.

**T1.1 Review state of the art**. Review of academic and grey literature on cases of innovative and sustainable agrifood value chains in F&V and other crops. The review will focus on identifying the drivers and constraints of successful integration of technological innovation with social, organisational, managerial and institutional changes. The focus will be on innovations that improve the sustainability of the agrifood value chain. Furthermore, the review goes beyond agrifood value chains and include crucial knowledge of sustainable innovative value chains in other sectors to highlight lessons to be learned. The review will explore and analyse the modes of collaboration in these value chains, including multi-actor knowledge platforms and joint action consortia. Then, the review will explore different modes of collaboration that contributes to the sustainability and innovation in the agrifood value chains. This review will summarize the key success factors (and their theoretical explanations) of innovative, sustainable and competitive agrifood value chains and will facilitate search criteria to be used for the identification in T1.2.

**T1.2 Identify innovative agrifood value chains and collect empirical data** Subtask 1.2.1: Identify, together with all consortium partners, innovative and sustainable agrifood value chains (particularly those that have not been described yet) accross the EU. The identification process is based on criteria that result from Task 1.1 and that have been reported to all consortium partners. Subtask 1.2.2: Data collection in the identified value chains, on a) the drivers and constraints of successful integration of technological, social, organisational, managerial and institutional innovations, b) sustainability objectives that have been integrated in these value chains and c) the different modes of collaboration within the value chains (with special attention to the position of the farmer), d) internal and external factors that have contributed to the innovativeness, sustainability and competitiveness of the value-chains. All project partners are involved in the identification and data collection activities under WUR team coordination. As a result, a selection of innovative and sustainable agri-food value chains all over Europe will be listed and a dataset on the characteristics of the identified sustainable, innovative and competitive agrifood value chains will extracted.

**T1.5. Explore the impact of public policies on sustainable innovation in agri-food chains.** In addition to T1.1, where the agri-food chains themselves are mapped and assessed, this task will identify policy measures, at regional, national and EU level, that support or hinder sustainable innovation in agri-food value chains. This task will include two main activities. First, to collect data (together with T1.1) on the policies that have been relevant for the innovative agri-food chains that are mapped and assessed. Second, to interview experts on the impact of policies on making agri-food chains both more innovative and more sustainable. This task will result in a description and assessment of the various public policies, at regional, national and EU level, that impact on sustainable innovation in agri-food value chains.

**Activity plan**

The activities of the assegnista will adhere to the following phases:

**phase 1:** Analysis of the literature and methodological update. The objective of this phase is to update the assegnista on the state of the art on innovative ways of agri-food value chain management.

**phase 2:** Collection and analysis of available data related to the agri-food value chains that show elements of innovation.

**phase 3:** Collection of data and analysis of existing policies that affect innovation in the agri-food sector.

**phase 4:** Reporting and publications. This phase concerns the writing of report activities, the presentation of results, and the preparation of scientific publication related to the research results.

The aforementioned activities will be supervised by prof. Davide Viaggi, scientific responsible and tutor, and by dott. Matteo Zavalloni, according to the role of the unit within the project CO-FRESH.