Research Fellowship

Topic: ***Developing a Regional Agrarian System Analysis and Diagnosis in Italy***;

The Department of Agricultural and Food Sciences of the University of Bologna is currently inviting applications for a six-month Fellowship to work on the topic "Developing a regional Agrarian System Analysis and Diagnosis in Italy".

Activity description

Agrarian System is a holistic concept developed to approach the analysis of agricultural activities at a regional scale by considering both the ecological and the socioeconomic dimensions. The methodology of the Agrarian System Analysis and Diagnosis, to which relevant agricultural research and development institutions contributed, including the FAO (FAO, 1999), is particularly suitable for investigating the links between the ecosystem, farming activities and the socio-economic context and designing initiatives to support sustainable development and valorisation of farm products of a specific rural area.

The fellowship holder will support an Agrarian System Analysis and Diagnosis conducted in Italy by the fellowship supervisor. His/her main tasks will include:

- Identification of the region to be analysed according to criteria indicated by the supervisor;
- Landscape reading, ecosystem analysis, and characterization of the agri-environmental context;
- Recent evolution and characterization of the regional agrarian socioeconomic context, institutions, and farming systems, and typology of current farming systems;
- Farming systems' technical analysis and modelling;
- Farming systems' economic analysis within the framework of the regional supply chains of farm products;
- Identification of farming systems' development perspectives and constraints, evaluation of the impacts of agricultural and rural development policies, proposals for improvements and valorisation of farm products adapted to the regional context.

The fellowship holder will be supervised by Prof. Massimo Canali, and will actively collaborate with other researchers of the Dept. of Agricultural and Food Sciences of the University of Bologna.

Qualifications and requirements

The characteristics of the ideal candidate include:

- B.Sc. level degree (Diploma di Laurea Triennale -3 years study- or equivalent) in Agricultural and Food Sciences, Life and Environmental Sciences or related disciplines relevant to the call;
- Knowledge of the Agrarian System Analysis and Diagnosis method and its application in regional studies;
- Familiarity with main scientific literature on agricultural and rural development;
- Good computer skills as user of the Microsoft Office applications package, in particular Excel, World, and Power Point;
- Good writing and speaking skills in both Italian and English languages.