Short Communication

A tribute to Giovanni Anania: Scholar, Mentor, Friend

This section reports the contributions to the special session chaired by Jo Swinnen - held at the 29th International Conference of Agricultural Economists, Milan, 9-14 August 2015 - to honor the memory and contribution of Giovanni Anania. Giovanni suddenly and unexpectedly passed away on 15 July 2015.

Giovanni has been for many of us a warm colleague and friend, and an example of moral integrity, leadership and commitment to any endeavor he engaged in. Those of us who had the privilege of working closely with Giovanni count our collaborations with him as among the most stimulating and rewarding of our careers. He was mentor of many students and especially in Italy he was reference for various generations of agricultural economists.

Giovanni began his career as an outstanding economist getting a post-graduate diploma at the Portici Centre in Naples and earning the PhD from the University of California at Davis. He quickly rose through the ranks and became full professor and Head of the Department of Economics at the University of Calabria, Italy. Giovanni was a great scholar and participated in or coordinated many national and international research projects. He published many books and articles, receiving the European Association of Agricultural Economists (EAAE) Quality of Policy Contribution Award. Giovanni provided several relevant scientific contributions mostly in the fields of agricultural policy analysis and international trade. He significantly contributed to the profession as an active member of national and international associations and recently served as President of the EAAE. He also played an important role in the policy debate both at the national and international level through consulting activities with European Commission, FAO, ICTSD, and OECD. Last, but not least, Giovanni was also a great organizer. He was ready to do whatever it takes to organize successful scientific events, defining stimulating agendas and planning memorable social outings, such as the IATRC conferences in Isola Capo Rizzuto and Capri.

The special session in honour to the memory of Giovanni has been organised in two parts: the first part focuses on Giovanni’s contributions to agricultural economics, while the second one on Giovanni’s contributions to scientific associations and institutions.

We are very grateful to the colleagues and friends of Giovanni who contributed to that session and to the hundreds of agricultural economists who participated.

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