
Editorial

Alexandros Theodoridis*

Faculty of Health Sciences,
School of Veterinary Medicine,
Aristotle University of Thessaloniki,
P.O. Box 410, Thessaloniki, 54124, Greece
Fax: ++302310999919
E-mail: alextheod@vet.auth.gr
*Corresponding author

Athanasios Ragkos

Department of Agricultural Technology,
Alexander Technological Educational Institute,
Sindos, Thessaloniki, 57400, Greece
Fax: ++302310791314
E-mail: ragkosagrecon@mail.com

The liberalisation of food markets, the new reform of Common Agricultural Policy, the economic crisis and the new environmental and climate-related challenges offer a new perspective for European agriculture. The intensification of competition, the rise in input prices, consumers' demand for safe and high quality products and the need for preservation of agricultural diversity affect severely the productivity of the agricultural sector. In this context, the vital economic, social and environmental role of agriculture can be attained through the use of information and communication technologies (ICTs). The application of ICTs in agriculture has proven to be, among others, an important tool which can contribute to a more efficient, competitive and sustainable agricultural sector.

This special issue on Information and Communication Technologies in Agriculture Food and Environment contains studies that cover a variety of topics on ICTs implications in agriculture and forestry. These studies were presented in the 6th International Conference on ICTs in Agriculture, Food and Environment (HAICTA 2013) that was held in Corfu Island, Greece, 19–22 September 2013 and was organised by the Hellenic Association for Information and Communication Technologies in Agriculture Food and Environment (HAICTA) with the support of its Northern and Central Greece Branch and in cooperation with several associated Institutions. HAICTA (<http://www.haicta.gr>) is the Greek Branch of European Federation for Information Technology in Agriculture (EFITA). The conference received 113 paper submissions by authors coming from 39 countries. The selection of the studies appearing in this special issue was based on the their relevance subject to the scope of the *International Journal of Agricultural Resources, Governance and Ecology* and on the evaluation score of the full papers during the double blind peer review process. It should be mentioned that these papers constitute an updated and extended version of the papers submitted to the HAICTA 2013 Conference.