

## Editorial

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**Biographical notes:** Pantazis Georgiou is an Associate Professor in the Department of Hydraulics, Soil Science and Agricultural Engineering at the Aristotle University of Thessaloniki, Greece. His primary research is irrigation water management, crop yield response to water, design and operation of irrigation reservoirs, water resources management, climate change, droughts and environmental impact assessment. He is the author of more than 130 articles in peer reviewed journals and conference proceedings and has been a keynote speaker in scientific conferences.

Christina Moulogianni is a researcher at the Department of Agricultural Economics of Aristotle University of Thessaloniki. She holds a PhD in Agricultural Economics from the same Department. She also holds an MSc in Agricultural Economics from the Aristotle University of Thessaloniki and an MSc in Environmental Management and Sustainability from International Hellenic University. She works and has interests in agricultural economics, impact assessment, environmental management, regional planning, farm management and sustainability in agriculture. She has conducted research in national and EU funded projects. She has a number of papers published in international scientific journals. Her recent publications include papers in the land use policy, environmental impact assessment review and energies.

Theodore Tarnanidis is a researcher in the Business Administration Department at the University of Macedonia. He finished his postdoctoral research at the University of Macedonia, in the area of sustainable entrepreneurship. He obtained his PhD from the University of London Met. UK, with a thesis on multi-attribute decision-analysis in consumer goods markets: analysing the effects of reference points. He was awarded postgraduate fellowship from the National State Scholarship Foundation. He received his MBA in Marketing from the Liverpool University and is a graduate from the University of Macedonia (Business Administration) and Alexander Technological Educational Institute (Marketing). For several years, he worked in the public sector where he specialised in financial economics. Formerly, he was a Visiting Researcher at London Met. University.

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We are delighted to announce the publication for the special issue of the *Journal of Sustainable Agricultural Management and Informatics*, by Inderscience. The aim of this special issue is to share and publish the results of latest developments and applications of operational research carried out in Europe and internationally to encourage cooperation among the scientists involved in the European research area on food, agriculture and the environment, to improve knowledge and contribute to sustainable agricultural, forest and environmental management. The papers published, after double blind reviewing, were selected from the HELORS 2017 Conference held in University of Macedonia, Thessaloniki, Greece in June 2017, and revised according to journal writing rules. They mainly represent academic research viewpoints in new tools, techniques and technologies of operational research in food, agriculture and the environment.

The special issue consists of five papers representing all issues covered by HELORS 2017 Conference, while demonstrating the wide-ranging of different interests of our target audience. In paper 1, the potentials of biomass production were examined in the Region of Central Macedonia (RCM) in Northern Greece. The main indicators analysed based on a technical and economic analysis are the farm income, the gross margin, the residual biomass, the variable costs, and the cogeneration of thermal and electrical energy. Paper 2 introduces an optimisation model based on simulated annealing, that determines the optimal crop pattern and allocation of irrigation water under full and deficit irrigation conditions for adaptation to climate change. The model can be used as a decision support tool for irrigation water management and environmental sustainability. The purpose of paper 3 captures intense variations in service satisfaction with regard to the purpose of visiting the Greek thermal springs. The definition and the measurement of the quality of the services are important in this sector because it impacts in the general satisfaction. The purpose of paper 4 examines the way individuals make decisions under emergency and risk situations. Paper 5 investigates the agricultural productivity in rural areas based on productivity indicators of agricultural resources, like the gross return produced per agricultural land in these areas, by using the decision-making approach PROMETHEE II.

The special issue owes much to many people. We wish to thank the authors for submitting papers to the special issue of *IJSAMI*. We are grateful that they responded to our invitation. Thanks are also given to the editorial board for supporting it so wholeheartedly, and particularly those who contributed with research work and reviewing of submitted papers. We hope that the *International Journal of Sustainable Agricultural Management and Informatics* will continue to serve the developments of operational research in the distinct domain of agriculture and environment, and will be a major catalyst within representing ideas and research work, while it will enhance a critical discussion within the operational research scientific community. We hope that this special issue will promote the HELORS 2017 scientific areas and contribute to the latest developments and applications of operational research in food, agriculture and the environment.