

**Teaching Board of PhD Course in Agricultural,  
Food and Forestry Sciences (SAAF) - Cycle XXXVIII**

**Minutes no. 2 - Meeting held on 11<sup>st</sup> January 2023**

Composition of the Teaching Board:

			P	AG	A
1.	Abdelfattah	Ahmed	x		
2.	Abenavoli	Maria Rosa			x
3.	Agosteo	Giovanni		x	
4.	Barreca	Francesco	x		
5.	Bernardi	Bruno	x		
6.	Bombino	Giuseppe	x		
7.	Campolo	Orlando	x		
8.	De Luca	Anna Irene	x		
9.	Di Fazio	Salvatore		x	
10.	García-Ruíz	Roberto		x	
11.	Giuffrè	Angelo Maria		x	
12.	Gulisano	Giovanni	x		
13.	Li Destri	Giulia		x	
14.	Lombardi	Fabio	x		
15.	Lucas-Borja	Manuel Esteban	x		
16.	Lupini	Antonio	x		
17.	Marcianò	Claudio	x		
18.	Marziliano	Pasquale	x		
19.	Modica	Giuseppe	x		
20.	Monti	Michele	x		
21.	Muscolo	Adele Maria	x		
22.	Nicolosi	Agata			x
23.	Palmeri	Vincenzo			
24.	Piscopo	Amalia Rosa Maria	x		
25.	Poiana	Marco	x		
26.	Porto	Paolo		x	
27.	Proto	Andrea Rosario	x		
28.	Schena	Leonardo	x		
29.	Sicari	Vincenzo	x		
30.	Sorgonà	Agostino			x
36.	Spampinato	Giovanni	x		
31.	Strano	Alfio	x		
32.	Sunseri	Francesco	x		
33.	Tassone	Valentina C.		x	
34.	Zema	Demetrio Antonio	x		
35.	Zimbalatti	Giuseppe		x	

The meeting takes place live at the Seminar Hall of the Department of Agriculture. The meeting is chaired by the Coordinator, prof. Leonardo Schena. Prof. Anna Irene De Luca acts as verbalizing secretary. The members of the college residing abroad (Abdelfattah A. and Lucas-Borja M.E.) participate in the meeting electronically through the Microsoft Teams platform in the dedicated channel “PhD SAAF (Cycle XXXVIII)” created by the Coordinator. The Coordinator, noting that the Board has been duly convened by invitation sent by e-mail on 04 January 2023 and that it is in a position to deliberate, declares the meeting open at 09:40. The agenda is as follows:

1. Communications;
2. Approval of minutes no. 1 of 14.09.2022;
3. Appointment of tutor;
4. Designation of the Selection Board for the admission competition to the Doctoral Course XXXVIII Ciclo (PNRR grants).

#### **1. Communications.**

1.1. The coordinator recalls that on 13.12.2022 he transmitted to all PhD students and all the members of the currently active boards (cycles XXXVI, XXXVII and XXXVIII) the DR. no. 454 of 09.12.2022 with which the University Regulations on the subject of Research Doctorate were adopted, including the amendments and additions made to the similar regulation (adopted with D.R. no. 76 of 14 March 2022) by the deliberations of the Academic Senate and the Council of Administration of November 14, 2022. He points out that the new regulation incorporates some urgent amendments proposed by the Council of the PhD School on 8 November 2022. Very important are the amendments to Art. 30, paragraph 9, which regulates the possibility of using the additional budget of 10% for each doctoral student. The approved changes are aimed at the following objectives: 1) simplifying the procedure to take advantage of the budget; 2) expanding the possibilities of use and accurately defining all the activities that fall within the budget; 3) defining the destination of any remaining unused funds and 4) define the timing of use by each PhD student in the three-year PhD period (the budget can be used starting from the first year of the Course, both by PhD students holding scholarships and those without). The Coordinator points out that the approved amendments to the regulation are not exhaustive and that others, considered less urgent, will be discussed and proposed in the near future. In this regard, the School Board approved the establishment of a working group with the task of analyzing the Regulation and, where deemed necessary, formulating new proposals for amendments aimed above all at simplifying and streamlining the authorization procedures. The Coordinator stresses the importance of strictly adhering to the provisions of the Regulation.

The Council takes note of this.

1.2. The Coordinator informs that, similarly to what has already been done for the other doctoral cycles, he intends to use the Team of the course called “PhD SAAF (Cycle XXXVII)” to deposit and share with the members of the College the documentation of the doctoral students.

The Council takes note of this.

1.3. The Coordinator reiterates that all PhD students’ requests (10% budget use, missions, off-site activities and foreign period) must be submitted using the forms available on the Department’s website (<https://www.agraria.unirc.it/modulistica.php>) and must be countersigned by tutors (and possibly co-tutors) with the digital signature.

## 2. Approval of minutes no. 1 of 14.09.2022

The Coordinator reminds that the draft of the minutes of meeting no. 1 of 14. 09.2022 written in Italian and English was transmitted on 04 January 2022 to all the members of the Board, together with the convocation of the current Board. Since there are no comments, the minutes, in both versions (Italian and English) are approved unanimously.

## 3. Appointment of tutor

The coordinator underlines that with DR. no. 335 of 10.10.2022, the following PhD students were admitted to attend the PhD Course in "Agricultural, Food and Forestry Sciences" (XXXVIII cycle):

Surname	Name	Curriculum	Place
Canine	Francesco	Forestry	With grant
Cilea	Iolanda	Food science and technology	With grant
Latella	Ilaria	Forestry	With grant
Vizzari (Italy)	Giuseppina	Forestry	With grant
Rodinò	Maria Teresa	Agricultural production sciences	Without grant

These PhD students were winners in the first public selection for admission to the XXXVIII cycle of the PhD course, launched with a call for applications, adopted by Ministerial Decree no. 241 of 29.07.2022. All PhD students regularly took up service on 2 January 2022.

The Coordinator recalls that according to the provisions of the *University Regulations on the subject of PhD Research* (Art. 5, paragraph 4, letter e) the Board of Teachers "assigns to each doctoral student, within the first year of enrolment, a tutor chosen from among the members of the Board, with the function of supervisor and supervisor, who follows him in training and research activities, and annually evaluates its activity with appropriate forms of monitoring and verifies its attendance at the Course".

An extensive and articulate discussion followed, during which the opportunity to ensure consistency between the topics of the research project assigned to each doctoral student and the declarations of the Scientific Disciplinary Sectors (SDSs) of the tutors was emphasized. Subsequently, taking into account the SDSs that had contributed to the co-funding of doctoral scholarships (see minutes of Meeting No. 1 of 09/14/2022), the research project submitted by the successful candidates at the application stage and the previous experience of the doctoral students, the Board assigns the following tutors to the doctoral students:

- Muscolo Adele, Full Professor SDS AGR/13, tutor of the PhD student CANINO Francesco;
- Poiana Marco, Full Professor SDS AGR/15, tutor of PhD student CILEA Iolanda;
- Campolo Orlando, Researcher SDS AGR/11, tutor of PhD student LATELLA Ilaria;
- Abdelfattah Ahmed, Researcher SDS AGR/12, tutor of PhD student Giuseppina Vizzari;
- Monti Michele, Full Professor SDS AGR/13, tutor of the PhD student RODINÒ Maria Teresa.

This item shall be read out and adopted unanimously immediately.

## 4. Designation of the Commission for the admission competition to the Doctoral Course XXXVIII cycle.

The Coordinator recalls that with DR. no. 340 of 25.11.2022, a second public selection was announced at the University of Mediterranean Studies of Reggio Calabria for admission to the Course of PhD for the cycle XXXVIII (A.Y. 2022/2023) active under the National Recovery and Resilience Plan, Mission 4 "Education and Research" funded by the European Union (NextGenerationEU). The call expired on December 27, 2022, and the interview for admission to the SAAF Doctorate, which will take place electronically, has been set for 19 January 09:30. The SAAF PhD has been awarded 8 scholarships of which:

- No. 5 grants in the dress of the Innovation Ecosystem project "Tech4You" (EI-T4Y);

- No. 3 grants within the Research Program of the “National Research Centre for Agricultural Technologies” (CN-Agritech).

<b>GRANT</b>	<b>Research Program</b>
Title Grant no. 1 Implementation of geospatial models and innovative workflows for the analysis, characterization and monitoring of the vegetative vigor state of Mediterranean agricultural systems	EI Tech4You, Spoke 3, Goal 1, PP1 Precision agriculture applications aimed at agroecological intensification
Title Grant no. 2 Microbiome-based solutions for crop protection	EI Tech4you, Spoke 3, Goal 1, PP1 Precision agriculture applications aimed at agroecological intensification
Title Grant no. 3 Smart and sustainable greenhouses	EI Tech4you, Spoke 3, Goal 1, PP1 Precision agriculture applications aimed at agroecological intensification
Title Grant no. 4 Evaluation of the effectiveness of naturalistic accommodations for the control of hydrological processes in forests covered by fire	EI Tech4you, Spoke 3, Goal 2, PP1 Precision and resilience
Title Grant no. 5 Extension of the shelf-life of food through the use of innovative biodegradable packaging.	EI Tech4you, Spoke 3, Goal 4, PP1 Processes of food production
Title Grant no. 6 Solutions for soil quality assessment and protection	CN Agritech, Spoke 3, WP 3.2 Innovative strategies to protect natural resources and reduce the environmental impact of agriculture
Title Grant no. 7 Experimentation of an automated aerated lagoon system optimized for the purification of agro-industrial wastewater	CN Agritech, Spoke 3, WP 3.2 Innovative strategies to protect natural resources and reduce the environmental impact of agriculture
Title Grant no. 8 Models for the sustainability and quality of agricultural processes and food	CN Agritech, Spoke 9, WP 9.5 The integration of new data and metadata on origin and sustainability

The Coordinator informs that according to art. 25 of the Research Regulations, the committee must meet the following requirements:

- it must include at least three full members of tenured university professors and researchers while respecting gender balance where possible;
- it must include at least one full professor and at least one member within the Board of Teachers of the said PhD Course;
- foreign university professors of the same or similar disciplines, belonging to roles corresponding to the professors and researchers of Italian universities, may also be part of the Commission, provided that the Departments belonging to the Doctoral Course bear the reimbursement costs;
- if the PhD Course is divided into several curricula, the Selection Committee is composed of a number of teachers equal to the number of curricula so that there is at least one professor or a qualified researcher

in the disciplines characterizing each curriculum. The Commission in any case is composed of an odd number of teachers or researchers. The number of researchers may not exceed half of the teachers;

- to avoid the hypothesis of impediment of one of the effective members, for each Commission, a number of alternate members must be provided in compliance with the provisions of the previous points;
- for each Commission cannot be proposed to Teachers who were part of it in the previous year.
- the Commissions, including the substitute members, are appointed by Academic Decree upon initial designation by the Teaching Boards and the favourable opinion of the Councils of the Departments.

The Coordinator recalls the names of teachers who have been members of previous Commissions:

- The first public selection for admission to the XXXVII cycle of the PhD course was announced with a notice of competition, adopted by D.R. no. 169 of 15.07.2021: Prof. Vincenzo Palmeri, Prof. Giovanni Spampinato; Prof. Marco Poiana.
- The second public selection for admission to the XXXVII cycle of the PhD course was announced with a notice of competition, adopted by D.R. no. 278 of 28.10.2021: Prof. Michele Monti, Prof. Francesco Sunseri, Prof. Massimiliano Ferrara, Prof. Antonio Taccone, Prof. Martino Milardi.
- First public selection for admission to the XXXVIII cycle of the PhD course, announced with a notice of competition, adopted by D.R. no. 241 of 29.07.2022: Prof. Adele Muscolo, Prof. Amalia Piscopo, Dr Maria G. Li Destri Nicosia.

After extensive discussion during which reference is made to the issues of doctoral scholarships put out to tender and to the provisions of *the University Regulations on PhD*, the Assembly highlights the importance of fully enhancing the prerogatives of the Board in choosing the topics to be assigned to Doctoral Grants in order to achieve maximum consistency with the Department's research strategies.

The following commission is appointed:

Actual components:

- Prof. Giuseppe Modica, Full Professor, SSD AGR/10 - Rural construction and agroforestry territory;
- Prof. Angelo Giuffrè, Associate Professor, SSD AGR/15 - Food Science and Technology;
- Prof. Giuseppe Bombino, Associate Prof., SSD AGR/08 - Agricultural hydraulics and hydraulic-forestry arrangements;
- Dr Ahmed Abdelfattah, Researcher, SSD AGR/12 - Plant pathology;
- Prof. Demetrio Zema, Associate Professor, SSD AGR/08 - Agricultural hydraulics and hydraulics-forestry arrangements.

Alternate members

- Prof. Leonardo Schena, Full Professor, SSD AGR/12 - Plant Pathology;
- Prof. Vincenzo Sicari, Associate Prof., SSD AGR/15 - Food Science and Technology;
- Prof. Francesco Barreca, Associate Prof., SSD AGR/10 - Rural constructions and agroforestry territory;
- Dr Orlando Campolo, Researcher, SSD AGR/11 - General and applied entomology;
- Prof. Andrea Rosario Proto, Associate Professor, SSD AGR/06 - Wood technology and forest uses.

This item shall be read out and adopted unanimously immediately.

As there were no other items for discussion and all the items on the agenda had been dealt with, the meeting was closed at 11:30 a.m.



The Coordinator  
Prof. Leonardo SCHENA

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The Secretary  
Prof. Anna Irene DE LUCA

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