

Minutes of the Academic Board of the SAAF PhD n. 2 (Cycle XLI)
Meeting of 10 September 2025

Composition of the Academic Board:

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

43.	Zema	Demetrio Antonio	X		
44.	Zimbalatti	Giuseppe		X	
45.	Zimbone	Santo Marcello	X		

The meeting is held in person in the Francesco S. Nesci lecture hall of the Department of Agriculture. The session is chaired by the Coordinator, Prof. Leonardo Schena. Prof. Manuel Scerra serves as recording secretary. A dedicated channel, “PhD SAAF (Cycles XXXVIII/IX/XL) - MEETINGS,” created by the Coordinator on the Microsoft Teams platform, is activated to enable the participation of members of the Board residing abroad (Dr. Abdelfattah, Prof. García-Ruíz, Dr. Lucas-Borja, Valentina C. Tassone). Prof. García-Ruíz and Dr. Lucas-Borja are considered excused, having previously submitted a request via e-mail to the Coordinator. Dr. Abdelfattah and Dr. Tassone are deemed absent, as they neither submitted a request nor joined the meeting on the platform.

The Coordinator, having ascertained that the Board was duly convened through an invitation sent via e-mail on 3 September 2025 and that the conditions for deliberation are met, declares the meeting open at 3:40 p.m. The agenda is as follows:

1. Communications
2. Approval minutes of meeting n. 1 (16.07.2025)
3. Appointment of the Evaluation Committee for Admission to the PhD Programme –Cycle XLI

1. Communications

The Coordinator reports that the application for accreditation of the PhD Programme in Agricultural, Food and Forestry Sciences - Cycle XLI - has received a positive evaluation from ANVUR.

2. Approval of the Minutes of Meeting No. 1 of 16 July 2025

The Coordinator reminds the members that the draft minutes of Meeting No. 1 of 16 July 2025, prepared in both Italian and English, were circulated on 3 September 2025 to all members of the Doctoral Board, together with the convening notice for the present meeting.

The minutes, in both language versions (Italian and English), are unanimously approved.

3. Appointment of the Evaluation Committee for Admission to the PhD Programme –Cycle XLI

The Coordinator notes that Rectoral Decree No. 243/2025 (Prot. 0021336 of 30 June 2025) launched the public selection procedure for admission to the PhD Programme in Agricultural, Food and Forestry Sciences (SAAF), with five (5) positions, including four (4) scholarships, of which one (1) is preferentially reserved for international candidates. Two scholarships are funded through University resources, while the remaining two are funded under the *Territorial Pacts for Higher Education for Enterprises* (MUR Decree No. 2329 of 21 December 2023) on the topic “The European Green Deal for the Sustainability of Agri-Food Systems.” The call further stipulates that all scholarship research themes must align with the “Farm to Fork,” “Green Deal,” and/or “One Health” strategies of the European Union. The deadline for submission of applications was 30 July 2025. Therefore, the Doctoral Board may now proceed with the appointment of the Evaluation Committee for the admission procedure to the PhD Programme (cycles XLI). According to the call, the assessment of qualifications will take place on 18 September 2025, and the oral examination on 25 September 2025.

The Coordinator then reads Article 25 of the Regulations on Doctoral Programmes, which governs the appointment of committees for PhD admissions. The article specifies that the committee must meet the following requirements:

- Include at least three full members among tenured professors or university researchers, ensuring, where possible, gender balance;
- Include at least one Full Professor and at least one member belonging to the Doctoral Board of the relevant PhD Programme;
- May include foreign university professors from the same or related academic fields;

- Be composed of an odd number of members, ensuring that the number of researchers does not exceed half of the total number of professors;
- Include a pool of alternate members, eligible to replace full members in the event of impediments, in compliance with the above criteria;
- Exclude members who served on the Evaluation Committee in the previous academic year. In this regard, the Coordinator recalls that the committee appointed last year for the 40th Cycle (Rectoral Decree No. 183 of 21 June 2024) consisted of: Prof. Marco Poiana, Prof. Agata Nicolosi, and Prof. Orlando Campolo;
- Committees, including alternate members, are appointed by Rectoral Decree, upon nomination by the Doctoral Board and subject to the favourable opinion of the Department Council.

Following a comprehensive discussion, and taking into account the scholarship research themes outlined in the call, the composition of committees in previous cycles, and the availability of potential members, the Doctoral Board appoints the following committee:

Full Members

- Salvatore Di Fazio, Full Professor, SSD AGRI-04/C – Rural Buildings and Agro-Forestry Territory
- Pasquale Antonio Marziliano, Associate Professor, SSD AGRI-03/B – Silviculture, Forest Planning and Ecology
- Manuel Scerra, Associate Professor, SSD AGRI-09/B – Animal Nutrition and Feeding
- Demetrio Antonio Zema, Associate Professor, SSD AGRI-04/A – Agricultural Hydraulics and Forest Hydraulic Systems
- Maria Giulia Li Destri Nicosia, Researcher, SSD AGRI-05/B – Plant Pathology

Alternate Members

- Vincenzo Palmeri, Full Professor, SSD AGRI-05/A – General and Applied Entomology
- Anna Irene De Luca, Associate Professor, SSD AGRI-01/A – Agricultural and Food Economics and Rural Appraisal
- Antonio Lupini, Associate Professor, SSD AGRI-06/A – Agricultural Genetics

This item is read and approved immediately and unanimously by the Board.

Since there are no other topics for discussion and having dealt with all the items on the agenda, the meeting was adjourned at 4:00 p.m.

The Coordinator
Prof. Leonardo SCHENA

The Secretary
Prof. Manuel Scerra