

Dear members of Agroecology Europe,

My name is Tommaso Gaifami and I'm honored to have the opportunity to be a candidate for the new Board. I am 26 years old and am an Italian grant researcher at the University of Florence in the Department of Agrifood Production and Environmental Sciences, where I collaborate with professor Cesare Pacini.

I completed the MSc in Organic Agriculture with a specialization in Agroecology at Wageningen University, where I graduated in March 2017. I performed data collection for my MSc thesis at Florence University's experimental site under the supervision of professor Pacini who, afterward, asked me to work with his group. Since April 2017, I have been working with his group selecting ecological indicators to evaluate organic vs conventional systems under an H2020 European project. We are also part of the Organic Long-Term Experiments (LTEs) network aiming to connect Italian and French LTEs. Furthermore, as part of my master's degree, I completed a 5-month internship in the U.S. at North Carolina State University. Taking advantage of being in a different country, in addition to my main research, I decided to record interviews with local farmers. In the resulting documentary, they discussed agroecological principles and how they put them into practice on their farms. In addition, I had the opportunity to integrate my research experience with a practical understanding of farming experiences on organic and/or multifunctional farms.

When I received the call to candidate for the next Board elections, I saw a chance to get closer to the agroecology world, meet new people and find new ways to bridge the gap between academic research and its application in farming systems. In addition, it would be an opportunity for me to become an intermediary with other young researchers, students, and collaborators and get them involved in Agroecology Europe activities. I would be honored to the challenging opportunity to become a member of the Board because I believe that my background together with my energy, commitment and motivation would allow me to make a valuable contribution to your work.

I hope to see you all in Lyon,

Tommaso Gaifami