

## ENTREPRENEURIAL PRACTICES IN AGRI-FOOD INDUSTRY: ADVANCING THE RESEARCH AGENDA

Call for papers for: **British Food Journal**

Entrepreneurship is generally considered crucial to the economic development and prosperity of societies (Acs et al., 2005; Jafari Sadeghi, Biancone, et al., 2019; Rubio-Bañón & Esteban-Lloret, 2016). In fact, launching new businesses not only creates employment, innovation and new markets that cause economic growth, but it also improves the quality of life at all levels of society for men and women (Elam, 2014; Sukumar et al., 2020). According to Davidsson (2003), entrepreneurship is a part of routine life, which contributes to society. Mitchell, Smith, Seawright and Morse (2000) and Baum and Locke (2004) explain it as the willingness of individuals to be self-employed. Raising the concept of readiness toward self-employment, Lau et al. (2012) consider entrepreneurship as not only linked to the individual's need for self-achievement (as a motive for business-creation) (Olugbola, 2017), but also as associated with the knowledge, skills and capabilities of those looking forward to creating a new business (Jafari-Sadeghi et al., 2020; Lim et al., 2010). In general, entrepreneurship can be explored in different perspectives. For example, scholars have focused on the country attributes (Bruton et al., 2008; Jafari Sadeghi, Nkongolo-Bakenda, et al., 2019), others on firm attributes (Zahra & Garvis, 2000), and still others who have identified individual attributes (Manolova et al., 2002).

When it comes to agricultural and food sector, entrepreneurship has been perceived as an important pillar that contributes to dealing with the challenges and rapid changes emerged in recent years (Gellynck et al., 2015; McElwee, 2006). This is particularly important since agricultural and food businesses have been pushed to align with obstacles including new trends in food safety, consumer habits, as well as changes in biotechnology and sustainability (Dias et al., 2019; Lans et al., 2017). In this vein, the adaptation of farmers and food entrepreneurs with the socio-economic changes, there has been an increasing interest among scholars in agri-food entrepreneurship research in recent years (Seuneke et al., 2013). On the hand, entrepreneurs have been constantly working to exploit new opportunities to address new scenarios through generating added value from their farm and food-oriented activities (Alsos et al., 2011; Vesala & Jarkko, 2008). As the food industry expands, technology is already starting to influence food production, patterns of consumption and distribution circuits (Garousi Mokhtarzadeh et al., 2020). Start-ups have quickly jumped on the food-tech bandwagon, transforming the dynamics of the food sector. Recent years have seen an increase in the number of mobile apps for preparing food, for food deliveries and even for restaurants reviews. Businesses are responding to this trend by offering new tech products and services that efficiently address these users' needs. These products and services are referred to as elements of the food-tech industry. Born from the alliance between innovative technology and the food industry, food-tech can be described as the application of technology to improve any stage of food production and distribution. Undoubtedly, improving the conditions and facilitating the creation of these start-ups can help boost business in the food industry. In this vein, it should be noted that although there is a major difference between agri-food sector and others such as high tech manufacturing, individuals who involved in value creation within farms and businesses related to food and agriculture are regarded as

entrepreneurs (Vermeire, 2009). Therefore, agri-food entrepreneurship can be seen similar to the entrepreneurial field which deals with different phenomena such as innovation and technology advancement, corporate social responsibility, etc. Consequently, this call attempts to broaden the understanding of agri-food entrepreneurship as in dealing with different below topics.

**Anticipated topics for submissions include:**

- Innovation in Food Ecosystems
- Technology and Food Entrepreneurship
- Agri-Foods and Entrepreneurial Ecosystems
- Rural Innovation
- Food and Agri-Tourism Entrepreneurship
- Social Enterprises and Food Ecosystems
- CSR and Food Entrepreneurship
- Agri-Family Businesses
- Entrepreneurial decision-making in Food Sector
- Knowledge Management in Agri-Businesses
- Entrepreneurship and Food Network
- Food Entrepreneurship and Socio-Economic Development
- International Food and Small Agri-business Management

Multi- and interdisciplinary approaches are particularly welcome.

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**Submission Deadline: ---**

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