

Sara Savastano: Bridging Academia and Action

Sara Savastano is an Associate Professor of Economics at the University of Rome Tor Vergata, DEF Department with a career spanning academia and international organizations. She holds a PhD in Economics from the University of Rome Tor Vergata. In 2017, she was awarded the Italian National Scientific Qualification as a Full Professor in Economics, Economic Policy, and Agricultural and Food Economics.

Sara is an accomplished scholar with a career defined by her commitment to translating rigorous research into real-world solutions. Her journey has taken her from academia to top-tier international organizations, providing a unique perspective on global challenges.

She earned her PhD in economics from the University of Rome Tor Vergata, where she has been a long-standing Assistant Professor since 2008. Throughout her academic career, she has focused on development and agricultural economics, publishing papers in prestigious journals like the Journal of Development Economics and World Development.

Her professional journey has included roles such as Director of the Research and Impact Assessment Division at IFAD, Senior Economist at the World Bank, and Assistant Professor at the University of Rome Tor Vergata. She has also worked with organizations like FAO and the Italian Ministry of Economic Development.

Beyond her academic work, Savastano has held significant roles in global institutions. She served as the Director of the Research and Impact Assessment Division at the IFAD and was a Senior Economist at the World Bank's Development Research Group. She is driven by a passion for bridging the gap between research and policy to solve real-world problems and train the next generation of professionals. At IFAD, she developed a cost-effective monitoring and evaluation framework that reduced impact assessment costs by 40% while improving data quality for policy design. This work is a testament to her philosophy of "Stop, Think, and Innovate," which helps turn urgency into creativity.

Now, back at the University of Rome Tor Vergata, her mission is to train the next generation of economists by equipping them with the tools they need to solve real-world problems and drive job creation.