Special Issue

Degradation of Rainfed Agricultural Soils: Impacts and Monitoring

Message from the Guest Editors

This SI is proposed with the aim of promoting contributions dealing with the principal role of soils supporting rainfed agriculture. In the context of climate change, sustainable agricultural practices demand resilient soils to minimize the effect of increasing temperatures and rainfall variability. In this regard, among the effects of agronomic relevance, decrease in fertility and water holding capacity, as well as loss of structure can be highlighted. In addition, the loss by erosion of the key horizons regarding soil resilience (mostly A and B horizons), makes the recovery of degraded soils even more difficult. Satellite-scale monitoring is a main tool to globally assess these processes, and therefore is a basis for making relevant decisions on soil conservation policies. However, the degradation processes of agricultural soils may not be evident, which makes it necessary to insist on the search and assessment of effective indicators of these processes, especially early indicators, that can be monitored by remote sensing. Manuscripts related to the aforementioned topics will be gratefully considered for publication.

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