

Special Issue

Integrated Pest Management Systems in Agriculture

Message from the Guest Editors

Agriculture contributes most to current human-induced climate change. However, crop productivity is at risk due to the increasing incidence of pests and diseases. A warmer climate and extreme weather events have led to a loss of biodiversity and ecosystem services, which has a significant impact on plant pests and the damage they cause. EU phytosanitary and environmental policies have defined the common challenge of reducing dependence on chemicals, improving food quality, and increasing the potential for the development of more bio-based and biotech-oriented production systems. To promote this transition and prioritize preventive crop protection based on agro-ecological practices to prevent pest outbreaks and infestations, we need a change of direction and paradigm. The measures taken by EU Member States to reduce pesticide use are based on the principles of Integrated Pest Management (IPM). However, current crop protection in the EU is still largely based on curative crop protection with chemical pesticides.

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Deadline for manuscript submissions

closed (31 October 2025)



Agriculture

an Open Access Journal
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Impact Factor 3.6
CiteScore 6.3



mdpi.com/si/201226

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Message from the Editor-in-Chief

Agriculture (ISSN 2077-0472) is an international, scholarly and scientific open access journal publishing peer-reviewed research papers, review articles, communications and short notes that reflect the breadth and interdisciplinarity of agriculture.

Editor-in-Chief

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