Special Issue

Agri-Environmental Value of Semi-Natural Grasslands: Degradation, Proper Management, and Restoration

Message from the Guest Editor

Despite their ancient origin, species-rich semi-natural grasslands still excel among agricultural ecosystems for their multifunctionality, including important agricultural benefits (high-quality forages, niche food products, agro-tourism, etc.) and environmental services (biodiversity, hydrological cycle, carbon sequestration, etc.). Unfortunately, their extent and quality has been alarmingly reduced in recent decades. Highlighting the causes and losses from grassland degradation in addition to the benefits from proper management of high-quality grassland is therefore crucial for justifying policies aimed at supporting their conservation. Ecological restoration has also become an important tool for maintaining grassland multifunctionality. Reintroducing species-rich grasslands can increase the environmental value of both agricultural areas (e.g., in livestock farming, field margins, herbaceous-woody cropping systems) and extra-agricultural environments (e.g., in urban parks, green roofs, road embankments, riverbanks, ski slopes).

Guest Editor

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Deadline for manuscript submissions

closed (20 October 2021)



Agriculture

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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.

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