Special Issue

Forage and Grain Crops Productivity in Their Coupling Systems

Message from the Guest Editors

The continuous growth in demand for livestock products provides motivation to diversify the cropping system to include both grain and forage crops. On the other hand, the common farming practices of grain crop monoculture, continuous cropping, and excessive use of chemical fertilizers have greatly impaired the sustainability of agroecosystems. Coupling grain and forage crops, through intercropping or rotation, constitutes one of the approaches of ecological intensification. The coupling systems increase the biodiversity of cropping systems and have been demonstrated to be effective in promoting production and improving ecological functioning. However, the underlying mechanisms are less investigated, and the design of the coupling system is still empirical in many areas. In this Special Issue, we aim to exchange knowledge on aspects pertaining to plant growth, resource utilization, ecological functioning, productivity, and economic benefit of the coupling system; experimental and modeling works are both encouraged.

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