Special Issue

Climate Factors Contribute to Grassland Net Primary Productivity

Message from the Guest Editors

Grasslands represent the main agricultural land resource for animal feed and food for humankind. Climate scenarios for the future will exacerbate climatic pressure on net primary productivity (NPP), forecasting more areas turning too dry or too wet for production more frequently. Often, there is no alternative to grassland due to climatic conditions and soil hydrology. This Special Issue is dedicated to the sustainable management of this agro-ecosystem, which is under increasing human and environmental pressure. Located between desert and forest, turned into arable or urban land, the value of this resource needs reassessment in the context of all ecosystem services and Sustainable Development Goals. Considering the potential contribution to climate change of intensive grazing systems, NPP will affect the lockup of carbon in the soil, especially when re-introduced into arable rotation. We envision a series of articles dedicated to the challenges and opportunities that come with climate change, illustrating direct and indirect effects of the (pedo-)climatic factors on grassland NPP across scales.

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