

Special Issue

Integrated Assessment of Sustainability of Agricultural Systems and Land Use Change from the Past to the Future

Message from the Guest Editors

The landscape has undergone accelerated and strong changes due to anthropic pressures. Urbanization and urban sprawl as well as the spread of industrial and tertiary activities, in conjunction with intensification of agricultural activities, have generated new types of landscape. This phenomenon, which is throwing the traditional management of agricultural systems into crisis, must be accompanied by a recognition and classification of the new types of landscapes to avoid abandonment, under-utilization, and pollution that can cause a progressive depletion of ecosystems.

Besides, the contingency of the COVID-19 crisis is also highlighting a new role for rural areas, thanks to the increase of teleworking and of our appreciation for green spaces as a consequence to the significant changes to society. The need to establish a new vision of “the future of rural areas and the place they should have in our society” represents the new challenge.

This Special Issue intends to spark a scientific debate on new integrated methodologies for land use/cover analysis and prediction, new declination of rural area types or features, as well as the use of environmental indicators.

Guest Editors

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As the world of science becomes ever more specialized, researchers may lose themselves in the deep forest of the ever increasing number of subfields being created. This open access journal Applied Sciences has been started to link these subfields, so researchers can cut through the forest and see the surrounding, or quite distant fields and subfields to help develop his/her own research even further with the aid of this multi-dimensional network.

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