Special Issue

Agroecology and Conscious Food Systems for Flourishing of People, Places, and Planet

Message from the Guest Editors

Our global food system is in crisis. Industrial agriculture is one of the leading causes of climate change and health inequity around the world. Urgent efforts are required to regenerate environments, cool the planet, and provide good, healthy food for all. This requires understanding and designing food systems using social, ecological, and political principles to regenerate nature and create a more just society. It also depends on cultural and spiritual transformation, recognizing the need to address outmoded mindsets and destructive, self-serving human behavior driving these global predicaments.

Inspired by the Conscious Food Systems Alliance initiative of United Nations Development Program, this SI addresses the call for deep structural change and transformative approaches to shifting dominant values and narratives within existing systems. This includes ecological and regenerative approaches such as agroecology, which are not limited to changing farming techniques but also extend to transforming policy, science, culture, and economies for more just food systems as well as Indigenous practices and ancestral knowledge with scientific knowledge to address the current food crisis.

Guest Editors

Prof. Dr. Victor Ernesto Méndez

Prof. Dr. Karen Spiller

Prof. Dr. Molly D. Anderson

Prof. Dr. Hannah Gosnell

Dr. Xiaoan Li

Dr. Carlos Andres Gallegos-Riofrío

Deadline for manuscript submissions

31 December 2026



an Open Access Journal by MDPI



mdpi.com/si/222003

Challenges Editorial Office MDPI, Grosspeteranlage 5 4052 Basel, Switzerland Tel: +41 61 683 77 34 challenges@mdpi.com

mdpi.com/journal/challenges





Challenges

an Open Access Journal by MDPI



About the Journal

Message from the Editor-in-Chief

Addressing scientific advancements and technological processes responding to societal needs are the new frontiers that humankind needs to face and cope with. Discovery and advances in basic research, synthetic biology, biochemistry, material science and biosystems engineering, are providing cutting edge progress and solutions. Scientists from multidiscipline fields are invited to discuss challenging science and research, and technology innovations in *Challenges* aimed towards solving current problematic issues.

Editor-in-Chief

Prof. Dr. Susan Prescott

- School of Medicine, University of Western Australia, Nedlands, WA 6009, Australia
- 2. ORIGINS Project, Telethon Kids Institute at Perth Children's Hospital, Nedlands, WA 6009, Australia
- 3. NOVA Institute for Health of People, Places and Planet, 1407 Fleet Street, Baltimore, MD 21231, USA

Author Benefits

Open Access:

free for readers, with article processing charges (APC) paid by authors or their institutions.

High Visibility:

indexed within RePEc, Gale, EBSCO, ProQuest, and other databases.

Rapid Publication:

manuscripts are peer-reviewed and a first decision is provided to authors approximately 29.3 days after submission; acceptance to publication is undertaken in 4.6 days (median values for papers published in this journal in the first half of 2025).

