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Multiple Roles for Landscape Ecology in Future Farming Systems

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Message from the Guest Editors

Agriculture faces mounting social, environmental, and economic challenges. These include climate change; declines in biodiversity; biosecurity threats; changing market influences; heightened concerns around animal protein and human health; and a growing public intolerance for the cumulative environmental impacts from the agricultural sector, which is increasing the complexity around future farming having social licence to operate. Coupled with this is an ever-increasing need to feed a growing global population, which augments the pressure to intensify or develop marginally productive land. The holistic and multidisciplinary nature of landscape ecology positions it well both to address these challenges facing agriculture and to offer advice on how to plan, design, modify, and develop new landscapes for the best environmental, economic, and social outcomes. This SI explores and discusses the evolving role of landscape ecology across a diversity of future farming systems. This includes its contribution to increasing food production with positive environmental outcomes and to addressing the socio-ecological transformative change required in many rural areas.

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