



Developing the Evidence Base for Rural Development Policies and Interventions to Address Novel and Emerging Societal Problems

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Message from the Guest Editors

The COVID-19 pandemic is emphasizing the importance of a resilient food system that ensures affordable food for consumers and helps to uncover the existing critical interrelations between ecosystem preservation, food system characteristics, and health. The need for a transition toward a more sustainable food system maximizing environmental, health, and social benefits while supporting economic growth is therefore particularly needed.

To foster this transition, countries are asked to orient their policy interventions in agriculture to improve their response to societal demands on food and health, including safe, nutritious, and sustainable food. Agricultural policies need to adapt to the current challenges, which leads to two relevant and related research gaps. Empirical evidence on the fitness and suitability of traditional measures and interventions in agriculture in achieving the expected outcomes and impact is particularly limited with regard to novel expectations and requests.





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Message from the Editor-in-Chief

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