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Improving Agricultural Water Productivity in the Dry Areas

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Message from the Guest Editors

Dear Colleagues,

About 41% of the Earth's land area is classified as dryland, wherein the farming system is characterized by approximately 300–500 mm of annual rainfall, much of which falls in winter and spring. Low rainfall, which is not only insufficient for the production of many crops, as well as irregular rainfall, constitutes a major challenge to profitable farming in dry areas. Nevertheless, local populations depend on these lands for producing food. Drylands are inhabited by more than two billion people worldwide. As water is the most limiting factor for agricultural production, the primary problem is to identify the most effective means of storing natural precipitation in the soil and how to retain this water until it is needed by the plants. In drylands, water received as rain or snow can easily be lost before it can be used by a crop. [...]

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Special Issue



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Message from the Editor-in-Chief

In the context of global changes, the sustainable management of water cycles, going from global and regional water cycles to urban, industrial and agricultural water cycles, plays a very important role on the water resources and on their relationships with food, energy, biodiversity, ecosystem functioning and human health. *Water* invites authors to provide innovative original full articles, critical reviews and timely short communications and to propose special issues devoted to new technological and scientific domains and to interdisciplinary approaches of the water cycles. We ensure a critical review process and a quick turnaround between submission and final decision.

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