



Grassland Management for Sustainable Agroecosystems

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Message from the Guest Editors

Dear Colleagues,

Grasslands should no longer be considered only as a food resource for domestic herbivore farming, but also and above all as a source of ecosystem services that they provide to society and contribute to the sustainability of agriculture. Intensification of pastoral farming is spreading around the world and its effects on ecosystem services are largely unknown, notably in terms of soil C dynamics, C storage and greenhouse gas emissions. Grasslands play a key role in this respect, in particular by (i) strongly coupling the C, N and P cycles, thus limiting emissions to the hydrosphere and the atmosphere, and (ii) acting positively on the dynamics of biodiversity. Moreover, increasing food production and expanding rural development from constrained land areas under climate change are great global challenges to face, which are being met by increased fertiliser and irrigation inputs. However, while we have some coarse-grained knowledge about the way grasslands are managed at various scales, surprisingly little is known about the effects of different management options on long-term C storage and other ecosystem services. Contributions presenting management effects on biogeochemical cycles and ecosystem services from farm to global scale are welcome. Specifically, we invite contributions presenting new evidence on the effects of alternative management options, which minimise C losses or increase soil carbon storage and the provision of other ecosystem services.

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