

Landscape Ecology

Call for Papers

Forests Sustaining Agriculture: The Contribution of Tree-Based Ecosystem Services to Food Production in Multi-Functional Landscapes



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Forests provide a range of services and disservices to food production that are conceptually well established. The empirical evidence for these contributions has been building over time, but there are still many gaps limited understanding of how these and contributions differ by context and how they interact with each other. Most prior studies have explored the contribution of a single ecosystem service and been conducted at the farm scale. For example, there is a growing literature on the role of forests in providing pollination services for crops at the plot-level, but forests may also sustain productivity in other ways.

We are interested in studies that examine forest-based ecosystem services and their contributions to food production including pollination, pest control, regulation of microclimate (by influencing temperature and water balance), nutritional subsidies for grazing animals, soil nutrient cycling and hydrological services). We welcome studies that extend beyond single ecosystem service provision to consider bundles of services provided by forests at broader landscape scales.

This collection aims to strengthen the evidence base related to the forest-food nexus and reveal the multitude of pathways by which forests can support food systems through improved agricultural yields and performance. We aim to bring together papers that are multidisciplinary from various fields including landscape ecology, soil sciences, conservation, agronomy, and international forestry. In addition, we are interested to see studies from different types of forest-food systems including silvopastoral, agroforestry, forest plantations, forest-adjacent food production systems, as well as the contributions of trees and forests within the landscape to spatially distinct food production systems.

Guest Editors

- Terry Sunderland: University of British Columbia, Canada
- Sandra Luque: INRAE UMR TETIS, Montpellier, France
- Sima Fakheran Esfahani: Isfahan University of Technology, Iran
- James Reed: Center for International Forestry Research (CIFOR), Bogor, Indonesia
- Amy Ickowitz: Center for International Forestry Research (CIFOR), Bogor, Indonesia

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