

## Call for Papers Thematic Issue *Cahiers Agricultures*

### **Family Farming in the Transition towards Sustainable Society**

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#### **Summary**

Family farming as well as smallholder agriculture and peasant agriculture, hereafter family farming, are recognized as the dominant forms of agriculture both in the global north and the global south in the past and the present. The literature of social sciences has demonstrated their persistence and social legitimacy, their ability to fight for autonomy in the context of industrialization, globalization, and urbanization of agri-food sector and rural communities as well as the constraints they are facing (Bonanno, 1987; Brookfield and Parson, 2007 Sourisseau, 2015). At the same time, some of them have embraced opportunities to supply their products to agri-food industry and have contributed to the industrialization of agri-food for decades (Servolin, 1972; Friedmann, 1978). Characterized by its own internal diversity, family farming increasingly encounters different forms of farming in rural spaces, such as entrepreneur farming, corporate farming, transnational agribusinesses. The latter often compete with the diverse types of family farming for local resources, political support, and markets under the neoliberalization of agri-food policies (Sekine and Bonanno, 2016). To survive in

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economic crises, climate change, ecological degradation and regain autonomy, family farmers tend to seek alternative forms of agri-food production such as agroecology and pursue food sovereignty in cooperation with other social constituencies and civil society actors (Altieri, 1995; McKeon, 2015; Gaitán-Cremaschi et al., 2022).

Over the last decade, the international community has conferred significant recognition to family farming in the context of sustainable development (HLPE 2013). The declarations of the International Year of Family Farming (2014), the United Nations Decade of Family Farming (2019-2028) and the UN Declaration of the Rights of Peasants and Other People Working in Rural Areas (2018) testify to the acknowledgement of the importance of family farmers, smallholders and peasants as key players in the transition towards sustainable society. However, family farming continues to face significant challenges such as difficulties in farm succession to younger generations (Gasselin et al., 2015), gender inequity, environmental deterioration, market competition, lack of political support, sanitary crises (Tittonell et al., 2021), technological change (Taveira et al., 2019; Goulet, 2020), and wars and conflicts. The aim of this Thematic Issue is to share the outcomes of recent studies on family farming, their struggles for autonomy and sustainability, collective approaches for rural revitalization, the new forms of governance, constraints, and challenges, in the global north and in the global south. The papers of both theoretical and empirical studies, and written in French and English are welcome.

## Literature

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- Tittonell, P., Fernandez, M., El Mujtar, V. E., Preiss, P. V., Sarapura, S., Laborda, L., & Cardoso, I. M. 2021. Emerging responses to the COVID-19 crisis from family farming and the agroecology movement in Latin America—A rediscovery of food, farmers and collective action. *Agricultural Systems*. 190: 103098.

## **The proposed Thematic Issue**

We propose a Thematic Issue that includes a set of invited papers that we collected through the sessions held at the 15th World Congress of Rural Sociology of the International Rural Sociology Association in July 2022 in Cairns, Australia as well as others' papers. Pierre-Marie Bosc and Kae Sekine who authored HLPE (2013) and co-organized one of these sessions, Nora McKeon who led the discussions on food security governance in the UN/CFS and delivered a keynote speech in the congress, and Jean-Michel Sourisseau who follows and participates in the International Decade of Family Farming for CIRAD, serve as coordinators of this Thematic Issue. In particular, they are in charge of the pre-selection, on the basis of the abstracts, of the proposed papers, then of their final selection on the basis of the full papers (according to the standards of the journal), before the authors can submit them online to Cahiers Agriculture. The papers will be selected based on their quality according to the rules of the journal. Special attention will be paid to the papers that shed light on the recent evolution of family farming / smallholders, their efforts to the transitions towards sustainable society, related public policies, constraints, and their capacities to cope with the current challenges in the global south and in the global north.

## Schedule

This is a **schedule for deadlines**, meaning that **the papers will be published on-line as soon as they are accepted** before being printed and bound as the thematic issue.

Deadlines	Who does what
December 9 <sup>th</sup> , 2022	Authors submit the titles, abstracts (within 300 words) and keywords (within 5) as well as authors' affiliations and email addresses to the coordinators.
December 22 <sup>nd</sup> , 2022	The coordinators (a) select and send comments on the abstracts to the authors, and (b) inform the editorial board of the potential papers to be published based on the abstracts.
March 1 <sup>st</sup> , 2023	Authors submit full papers to the coordinators who are in charge of verifying the papers' conformity to the Journal's instructions. Once approved, authors submit their papers on the journal's platform, specifying that it is intended for the thematic issue. The papers then undergo the peer-review process (double-blind peer review) under the supervision of the editorial board, in relation with the coordinators whenever needed. The full papers will be published online as soon as it is accepted.
October 31 <sup>st</sup> , 2023	Online publication of the complete thematic issue.
December 31 <sup>st</sup> 2023	Printing of paper copies of the thematic issue.