

Special Issue

Role of Local Breeds in Global Agriculture—Local Food, Regional Identity and Ecosystem Services

Message from the Guest Editors

The genetic, economic, and social (cultural) value of local breeds is undisputed, but they must also adapt to the challenges of global agriculture, especially concerning the sustainability and safety of animal products. Therefore, in the case of products of local breeds, we can speak of *terroir*, a recognizable quality resulting from the specific interaction of local breed–plant–soil. Local breeds are part of the regional identity and culture of life, visible in almost all local manifestations. In the last half-century, there has been a growing appreciation of the importance of local breeds and their adaptability to natural environmental conditions that ensure local, regional, and global food production. Local breeds are considered a potential "source" of food raw material derived from crossbreeding and of genes for an efficient introgression into cosmopolitan breeds in which some desirable features have been lost. Therefore, the editors aim to stimulate scientific reflection and present best practices on the "Role of Local Breeds in Global Agriculture—Local Food, Regional Identity and Ecosystem Services.

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