

Special Issue

Integrating Agroecology and Conservation for Sustainable Local Transformation

Message from the Guest Editors

Against a backdrop of intertwined crises, including poverty, food insecurity, biodiversity loss, pandemics, and climate change, small-scale farming communities around the world, who often bear the brunt of restrictive measures to curb deforestation and ecosystem degradation, are finding ways to resist the lock-ins of the industrialized food system and enact alternatives that foster economic viability, ecological regeneration and conservation, and social justice. The framework of agroecology offers significant promise. Agroecology emphasis on farmer-led innovation, closed-loop systems and knowledge-intensive (as opposed to input-intensive) practices, and general socio-ecological resilience, it offers opportunities to support the conservation of important agro and forest ecosystems on a local scale. This Special Issue will include a range of case studies from both the Global South and North that consider the importance of integrating agroecological approaches with forest and agrobiodiversity conservation as a means to mitigate future uncertainties related to climate crises; pandemics; natural disasters; and their disruption to forest, food, and agricultural systems.

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