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EDITORIAL

Thematic Issue of Agricultural Policies

The role of agriculture in the world has changed its value as a promoter of development. It has changed rapidly in the recent decades towards attributes that go far beyond the tangible products and services obtained from the land. In this context, agricultural and forestry sectors face multiple opportunities and challenges at the global level. With the gradual reduction of poverty and hunger, increasing attention is being accorded to environmental concerns related to water resources, climate change, and biodiversity within the dynamics of agricultural development. Apart from this there is an urgent need to address the Sustainable Development Goals (SDG) to protect the environment and ensure a good quality of life for small holders as part of a common agenda at the rural level. All the above mentioned aspects require a collaborative effort between public and private sectors to create spaces and conditions for increasing the competitiveness of different value chains of agricultural sector, coupled with an active and permanent feedback process that not only efficiently focuses on the short-term issues, but also foresees future scenarios with actions and policies aligned with what our society expects in the coming years.

With this background, this thematic issue of agrarian policies of International Journal of Agriculture and Natural Resources will present an analysis of the national-regional situation of the agricultural and forestry sector, based on research and interdisciplinary analysis. The issue will consist of essays, review articles and original research articles with focus on the following: (1) *Data challenges in the measurement of agricultural productivity: Lessons from Chile*; (2) *Innovative Rural Entrepreneurship in Chile*; (3) *Management of Water Resources in Agriculture in Chile and its Challenges*; (4) *Towards Sustainable Agriculture in Chile, Reflections on the Role of Public Policy*; (5) *Long Term Trends and Policy Challenges in Chilean Agricultural Labor Markets*; (6) *Agriculture 4.0? Studying the evidence for routinization in the Chilean agriculture*; (7) *Description and assessment of a collaborative agricultural extension program under the Triple Helix Model of innovation*; (8) *Opportunities and challenges for small-scale aquaculture in southern Chile: The stakeholders' perspective*; and (9) *Productivity in the Agricultural Sector: A Global Outlook from a Latin American Perspective*.

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