

Renewable Agriculture and Food Systems

Aims and Scope

Renewable Agriculture and Food Systems publishes original research on biological, physical, or social science aspects of alternative and renewable agriculture and food systems. We particularly welcome multidisciplinary studies, but papers from a specific discipline are also invited. However, since RAFS readership is much broader than for a single-discipline journal, highly specialized terminology should be explained or avoided. The significance of a statement, or the reasoning behind a conclusion, may have to be spelled out more than in a more specialized journal.

Categories of Articles

We publish articles in the following categories; please ensure that your article clearly fits into one of the categories listed below:

Articles

These are full-length articles not qualified by any other label (e.g., "commentary") that make up the main body of every issue. They fall into three classes:

Research articles

These are reports of original research that all subject to peer review, with the customary standards applying: relevance, originality, significance, validity, and clarity. One additional criterion not always applicable to other journals is that an article for RAFS should be understandable to readers with a wide range of backgrounds, not just people in the authors' speciality.

Review articles

We encourage you to submit a review on any subject relevant to RAFS.

Preliminary reports on highly innovative systems.

This is a category that is not found in some journals but which we consider appropriate for alternative agriculture. It covers areas about which very little research has been done before, but which promise to be very exciting. The data presented in such an article can be less complete than in a conventional research report. However, please note that such an article should not be a report on work in progress on a familiar topic.

Fora

These are short pieces that take a stand on a current policy issue. Usually a forum makes just one main point so it can argue the case convincingly in about one journal page. The aim of a forum article is to stimulate thinking and discussion. On receipt of a forum

article, the Forum Editor sends the article to two reviewers whose responses will be published with the forum.

Manuscript submission

Peer review

All contributions will be reviewed by at least two referees to ensure both accuracy and relevance. The referees' reports will provide a basis on whether we accept a paper. Revision may be required before final acceptance. Authors are invited submit the names and contact details (including e-mail addresses) of suggested referees in a covering letter, or in the 'comments' box online.

Units

Research papers should use the International (SI, or metric) system throughout. Occasional use of common unit equivalents in parentheses is permitted.

Arrangement of papers

Manuscripts should be prepared according to the following structure:

An abstract of 200 to 400 words, suitable for readers from a broad range of disciplines. It should avoid highly specialised terminology that might be appropriate for a single-discipline journal. Take particular care that the significance of the work is made clear, even to readers from a different field.

Subject matter keywords suitable for use in scientific indexing

The text, divided under appropriate headings

Acknowledgements (if any)

References (for further information about presenting references please see below)

Tables, either on a separate sheet at the end of the manuscript or in separate file. Tables should be numbered consecutively with Arabic numerals and every table should be mentioned at least once in the text.

Illustrations as separate files containing no text. Captions to illustrations should be supplied on a separate sheet at the end of the main manuscript.

Reference List

When citing material that has been covered in more than one format, such as the typescript of a conference presentation and a journal article, preference should be given to the version that is most readily available, and that is likely to remain so. Generally this means standard publication channels, such as books, journals, and regular government report series. Unpublished or informally published material should be cited only when no alternative form exists.

References are based on the Vancouver system. They should be numbered consecutively in the order in which they first appear in the text using superscript Arabic numerals. Where a reference is cited more than once in the text, use the same number each time. In the reference list please give the names of all authors in the reference, never use "et al". Use full names of journals, institutions, conferences, etc. The

reference list uses no quotation marks, italics, boldface or underlining. Only the names of books and periodicals are in initial capitals. Names of papers, book chapters, pamphlets, and bulletins are not capitalized.

Examples:

1. Leopold, A. 1991. The farmer as a conservationist. In S.L. Flader and J.B. Callicott (eds.). *The River of the Mother of God and Other Essays by Aldo Leopold*. University of Wisconsin Press, Madison, WI. p.255-265.
2. Brink, R.H. Jr, Dubach, P., and Lynch, D.I. 1960. Measurement of carbohydrates in soil hydrolyzates with anthrone. *Soil Science* 89:157-166 .
3. Greenland, D.J. and Szabolcs, I. (eds.). 1994. *Soil Resilience and Sustainable Land Use*. CAB International, Wallingford, UK.
4. Arshad, M.A. and Coen, G.M. 1992. Characterization of soil quality: Physical and chemical criteria. *American Journal of Alternative Agriculture* 7:25-31.
5. Coale, F.J. 1996. Descriptions of the soil test interpretive categories used by the University of Maryland Soil Testing Laboratory. SFM-3. University of Maryland, College Park.

Footnotes

RAFS does not use bibliographic or substantive footnotes. All bibliographic references should be at the end of the text. Instead of substantive footnotes, include the material in the main text or consider eliminating it.

Manuscript Preparation

The entire manuscript, including abstract and references, should be typed on one side of standard-size paper, double spaced, with margins of at least 2cm all around. Label all pages in the upper right-hand corner with the lead author's last name and the page number. Add line numbers to your manuscript, restarting numbering for each page. Do not use hyphens unless the hyphen is part of the word.

Online submission

Manuscripts should be submitted online via our manuscript submission and tracking site, www.edmgr.com/rafs. Full instructions for electronic submission are available directly from this site. If you are unsure of the suitability of your manuscript for RAFS, please e-mail the abstract to the Journal Office before submitting online: rafjournal@cambridge.org.

To facilitate rapid reviewing, communications for peer review will be electronic and authors will need to supply a current e-mail address when registering to use the system.

When submitting your manuscript you will need to supply:

Manuscript file, with lines numbered, to include title, authors, correspondence details, abstract (200–400 words), main text, references and captions for tables and figures. Tables and figures should be provided as separate files and numbered as they appear in the text. Further guidelines for suitable electronic file formats can be found here. Covering letter, stating that the manuscript is an original contribution that has not been published elsewhere in substantially the same form, that it is not currently under consideration elsewhere, and that permission has been obtained for any copyrighted material used.

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Offprints

Cambridge University Press will send the corresponding author a PDF file of the final published article for use. There will also be an option to purchase offprints.

A Final Note

Articles will only be considered for publication in RAFS when submitted formally, in their final form, and formatted to the style of RAFS.