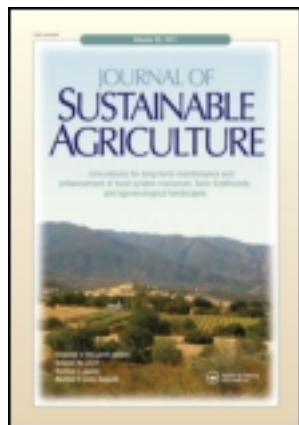


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Publisher: Taylor & Francis

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## Agroecology and Sustainable Food Systems

Publication details, including instructions for authors and subscription information:

<http://www.tandfonline.com/loi/wjsa21>

## Agroecology and Food System Transformation

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Version of record first published: 17 Dec 2012.

To cite this article: Steve Gliessman (2013): Agroecology and Food System Transformation, *Agroecology and Sustainable Food Systems*, 37:1, 1-2

To link to this article: <http://dx.doi.org/10.1080/10440046.2012.734264>

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## EDITORIAL

### Agroecology and Food System Transformation

With this issue, the *Journal of Sustainable Agriculture* becomes *Agroecology and Sustainable Food Systems* (ASFS). We are inaugurating this change with a special issue devoted to defining the focus of agroecology, and pointing out ways that it must lead the way in transforming food systems to sustainability, from the seed and the soil, all the way to the table. Guest editors V. Ernesto Méndez, Christopher Bacon, and Rose Cohen have done an excellent job of bringing together the transdisciplinary perspectives that have helped form our understanding of agroecology, how it promotes change through participatory action in research and education, and why it is important that agroecology lead the way in bringing sustainability to all people and all parts of our global food system. The ecological foundations are clear, but the social and political components where social change is most needed, are much less so. This special issue has brought together agroecologists from multiple perspectives, locations, and experiences, but all with a common goal of linking research, practice, and social change in truly transformative ways.

The aims and scope of the journal remain much the same—*ASFS* is devoted to the rapidly emerging fields of agroecology and sustainable food systems. The journal will continue to focus on the changes that need to occur in the design and management of our food systems in order to balance natural resource use and environmental protection with the needs of production, economic viability, and social justice and well being. *ASFS* will continue to examine our current food systems from production to consumption, and the urgent need to transition to long-term sustainability. We will promote the participatory study and testing of alternative solutions to complex food system problems such as resource depletion, environmental degradation, a narrowing of agrobiodiversity, continued world hunger and food insecurity, consolidation of the food industry, climate change, and the loss of farmers and farmland. Rather than focus primarily on separate disciplinary components of agriculture and food systems, *ASFS* will continue the trajectory begun in *JSA* of using the transdisciplinary approach described in the special issue to seek transformational actions in our food production and consumption systems as part of the multiple processes occurring in a complex landscape of agriculture, conservation, and human interaction.

As the editor for *ASFS*, I want to thank our publisher Taylor & Francis for supporting this important transition for the journal. I also want to thank our Board of Editors for providing the perspectives, expertise, and experience needed for our agroecological undertaking. We welcome submissions of our readers' efforts in food system transformation.

Steve Gliessman  
*Editor*