
Editorial

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Biographical notes: Basil Manos is a Professor of the Department of Agricultural Economics at the Aristotle University of Thessaloniki, Greece. His research interests are in farm management and regional planning, environmental management, impact assessment, sustainability and efficiency. He has studied mathematics, economics, operational research and agricultural economics in Aristotle University of Thessaloniki and London School of Economics. He has conducted research in many European funded projects. His publications include papers in *Land Use Policy*, *Regional Studies*, *Journal of Policy Modeling*, *British Food Journal*, *Journal of Environmental Planning and Management*, *Environmental Monitoring and Assessment*, and *Journal of Environmental Management*.

Zacharoula Andreopoulou received her BS in Mathematics, her BS in Forestry and Natural Environment and her PhD in Forest Informatics, all from the Aristotle University of Thessaloniki, where she is currently an Assistant Professor in the Laboratory of Forest Informatics. Her scientific and research interests include networks and web services, databases, modelling and project management in natural resources and environment, sustainable development and regional development applications. She is an active member of scientific societies and she has organised and participated many international and domestic conferences. She is the author, co-author and editor in books and international journals regarding environmental informatics. She is an Executive Editor and Associate Editor in international journals on sustainable environmental informatics issues.

We are delighted to announce the publication of the inaugural issue of the *Journal of Sustainable Agricultural Management and Informatics*, by Inderscience.

The aim of this new journal is simply to provide a home for scientific and technical articles relating to the application and employment of innovative management and information technologies in agriculture, food and the environment within the sustainable

development goal, that has become an imperative in 21st century. *IJSAMI* establishes an international state-of-the-art knowledge platform in the field of sustainable agricultural management and informatics, addressing all underlying research developments, and seeks to significantly improve current agricultural, environmental and forest management and informatics by publishing novel and high-quality theoretical and empirical contributions.

This journal has been nearly two years in the making. It was felt by Professor Manos that a dedicated journal would be the ideal vehicle to capture the diverse scholarly interests of an ever more vibrant community of experts in agricultural and environmental management and informatics within the sustainability context.

In this inaugural issue of *IJSAMI*, we bring together agricultural management functions and informatics modules to establish effective communication channels that are important for sustainable and effective decision making in agriculture, food and the environment which in turn contribute to productivity, competitiveness and sustainable development. The aim of the issue is to start to structure the discussion of sustainable agricultural management and informatics practices, techniques and innovative tools, to suggest questions and issues, and to start debate. The papers published highlight new strategies, tools, techniques and technologies essential for the enhancement of sustainable agricultural management and information and communications technologies. They mainly represent academic research viewpoints, and discuss current technologies and future possibilities equally.

The inaugural issue consists of six papers representing all issues covered by *IJSAMI* while demonstrating the wide-ranging and diverse interests of our target audience. In paper 1, an IT system is described that conveys some of the expert knowledge to decision makers who often have insufficient knowledge to incorporate erosion control in land management decisions. Paper 2 explores the social acceptability of policy instruments that address water scarcity and droughts by empirically examining social sensitiveness to both climate change and the related policies in the Italian context. The purpose of paper 3 is to explore the impact of changing agricultural policies on the productivity of agricultural crops and area in Italy. The objective of paper 4 is to measure the efficiency of Greek flourmills firms, using the DEA methodology. Paper 5 presents a DSS for the identification of forest land types that can benefit forest service and individual foresters-decision makers aiming to a sustainable management in land use, which mainly depends on the land type of an area. Paper 6 is an attempt to study the technologies available and their applicability on the betterment of agricultural practices including production, harvesting, distribution and storage and their impact on achieving food security. The existing structure of public distribution system (PDS) in India and role of technology in improving the PDS to ensure food security are examined.

This inaugural issue owes much to many people. We wish to thank the authors who submitted papers to the first issue of *IJSAMI*. We are grateful that they responded to our invitation.

Thanks are also due to the editorial board for supporting it so wholeheartedly, and particularly those who contributed in this issue with research work and reviewing of submitted papers. Thanks are also due to the supportive team of Inderscience that supported and drew up the parameters of the journal.

We hope that the *International Journal of Sustainable Agricultural Management and Informatics* will adequately serve the area, and will be a major vehicle within presenting ideas, perspectives and research work, while it will enhance a constructive discussion within the scientific community.