

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 RAF 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. One additional criterion not always applicable to other journals is that an article for RAF should be understandable to readers from a wide range of backgrounds, not just people in the authors' speciality.

1. Research Papers

These are reports of original research that all subject to peer review, with the customary standards applying: relevance, originality, significance, validity, and clarity.

2. Review Articles

We encourage you to submit on any subject relevant to RAF.

3. Preliminary Reports

Preliminary reports on highly innovative systems is a category that is not found in some journals but which we consider appropriate for renewable agricultural systems. It covers areas about which very little research has been done before, but which promise to be very exciting. The data presented in such a paper can be less complete than in a conventional research paper. However, please note that such a paper should not be a report on work in progress on a familiar topic.

4. From the Field

The "From the Field" paper type includes annotated field reports of on-going research of renewable agriculture projects around the world. These reports are meant to provide an outlet for research underway in the field, and will be reviewed as any other manuscript submitted to the Journal, but can be more informal in content. They can also be linked to visual or other supplementary content that will be published online only through the Journal's website.

5. 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.

6. Commentaries

Commentaries can be of different types. The first can be a critical challenge to an article published in the Journal, arguing for a position other than that taken in the initial article; an elaboration or extension of the position taken in an article published by the Journal, pushing the argument further; or an application of a theoretical perspective that sheds light on the issues addressed in a paper published in the Journal or the author's experience applying the issues addressed in the article.

7. Resource Reviews

We welcome Resource Reviews. These are not limited to books, but may also include models, tutorials, videos etc.

Arrangement of Papers

Research papers, Review articles, and Preliminary reports

- An abstract of 200-400 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 word is made clear, even to readers from a different field.
- Subject matter keywords suitable for use in scientific indexing
- Text divided into appropriate headings; please limit the length of manuscript to 5000 words or less. Additional material may be published as Supplementary Material. Please see guidelines here: <https://www.cambridge.org/core/services/publishing-partners/journal-publishing-partnerships/journals-supplementary-materials-guidelines>
- References (see information about presenting references below)
- Tables, either on a separate sheet at the end of the manuscript or in a separate file. Tables should be numbered consecutively with Arabic numerals and every table should be mentioned at least once.

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

From the Field papers

- From the Field papers should be in the form of a brief report, about 2,000 words. A brief summary/abstract up to 150 words should be included. There should be a maximum number of 25 references and a maximum of 5 key words. Up to 2 in-text illustrations (figures, tables) can be included within the constraints of the Journal's image-publishing policy (see <http://journals.cambridge.org/action/stream?pageId=3624&level=2&sessionId=EE7450BF3E68D2ABF7B25555A6716F60.journals#5>) with others being linked as supplementary files. (Please see below for Supplementary File instructions)
- We encourage the publication of supporting photos, images, tables, etc. which can be published online and linked to the paper as Supplementary File. These materials can be cited within the text of the paper, but the paper must stand on its own without the supplementary materials.

Forum and Commentaries

- Papers should be short, about 2000 words, and include a brief summary of up to 150 words in place of an abstract. Cite only works absolutely necessary to support your point. Use a short title that emphasizes the key message.
- The second form of commentary is more editorial in nature and covers an issue that is relevant to the Journal's scope. This should be formatted as a review article, described above.
- Acceptance or rejection of the commentary is at the discretion of the Editor-in-chief. In most instances, commentaries will be peer reviewed. Also, the Editor-in-chief may request or allow an author to respond to the commentary.

Manuscript submission

Peer review

Renewable Agriculture and Food Systems operates double-blind 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 is likely before final acceptance.

Reference List

The Harvard (author-date) system should be used in the text and a complete list of References Cited given at the end of the article. For a citation of a work by more than two authors in the text, cite the first author's name followed by et al. (but the names of all of the authors should be given in the References section). Where several references are cited together they should be listed in rising date order. The References section should be in alphabetical order. Examples follow:

Arshad, M.A. and Coen, G.M. 1992. Characterization of soil quality: Physical and chemical criteria. *American Journal of Alternative Agriculture* 7:25-31.

Brink, R.H. Jr, Dubach, P., and Lynch, D.I. 1960. Measurement of carbohydrates in soil hydrolyzates with anthrone. *Soil Science* 89:157-166 .

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.

Greenland, D.J. and Szabolcs, I. (eds.). 1994. *Soil Resilience and Sustainable Land Use*. CAB International, Wallingford, UK.

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.

Guidance Applicable to All Papers

Please ensure that your files are uploaded in the following order:

For Original Submissions:

1. Author covering letter (this should be anonymous with no identifying information). It is recommended that authors submit the names and contact details (including e-mail addresses) of suggested referees in this cover letter (with no author identifying information).
2. Title Page containing all author contact information, their first and family name; their post at the time they did the work; their current appointments and qualifications; the name and address of the author to whom correspondence, proofs and offprints should be sent, together with email, telephone and fax numbers. Include funding information and any acknowledgments on this title page.
3. Manuscript file (anonymised) containing the title of the work, Abstract and Keywords followed by the main body of the paper prepared as per the instructions below
4. Figure captions (mandatory if figures are included)
5. Figures (one file per figure) in eps or tif format
6. Tables as a single word document
7. Any Supplementary Material

For Revised Submissions:

1. Authors response to reviewers comments (this should be anonymous)
2. Title Page containing all author contact information, their first and family name; their post at the time they did the work; their current appointments and qualifications; the name and address of the author to whom correspondence, proofs and offprints should be sent, together with email, telephone and fax numbers. Include funding information and any acknowledgments on this title page.
3. Tracked Changes Manuscript file (anonymised) containing the title of the work, Abstract and Keywords followed by the main body of the paper showing all additions and omissions.
4. Figure captions (mandatory if figures are included)
5. Figures (one file per figure) in eps or tif format.
6. Tables as a single word document
7. Any Supplementary Material
8. A blank separator page which can be downloaded [here](#)
9. Clean Manuscript file (anonymised) where all changes have been incorporated into the file and tracking has been turned off.

Microsoft Word is the preferred software. No artwork should be included in text files. Any artwork should be in either TIF or EPS format, and saved as individual files per Figure. When preparing your paper:

- For both the original and revised manuscripts, all pages must be numbered;
- Use the minimum formatting;
- Roman, bold and italic type can be used, but only one typeface and font;
- Capitals should be used only where they are to appear in the finished text;
- The text should be ranged left and unjustified, with hyphenation cancellation;
- Indents, underlining and tabs should be avoided unless absolutely necessary;
- Heading and paragraphs should be separated by two carriage returns;
- Do not use footnotes
- There should only be one space between words and only one space after punctuation.
- Avoid using more than three levels of heading.
- Abbreviations should be kept to a minimum and must be clearly defined when used first time. Abbreviations should be typed with no full point.
- Avoid excessive capitalization.
- Use italics for emphasis sparingly.
- For numbers, adopt a rule that all numbers under 10 should be written as words except when attached to a unit of quantity (e.g. 1 mm or 3 kg), and that numbers of over 10 should be written as digits except at the beginning of a sentence.
- Care should be taken that all statistical methods are relevant and that it is clear which methods were used. Any statistical tests should be reported as well as the p value.

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 RAF, 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.

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A Final Note

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

Instructions for Journal Editors-in-Chief and Editorial Offices Regarding Submission of Supplementary Material

Introduction

An increasingly appealing option for journal authors is the inclusion of Supplementary Material with the traditional manuscript text. Supplementary Material is defined as any content that supports, but is not key to, the understanding of a print- and / or online-published item's message. Given that Supplementary Material is exclusively published online, it may include file types (video, audio) that are incompatible with a print format.

Supplementary Material is subject to the same peer review process and copyright requirements as all primary content. It will be neither copy-edited nor typeset, but will be published as approved by the Editor-in-Chief. As the submission of Supplementary files becomes more prevalent we would like to offer some guidelines for submission of Supplementary files to Cambridge University Press journals production.

Most common types of Supplementary Material

Common types of Supplementary Material include audio and video files and large datasets or tables. Datasets, tables, and other textual material are commonly submitted as PDF, Excel, or Word files. Our recommendations for the various types of files can be found in Appendix 1 at the end of this document.

Submission procedure

Supplementary files should be delivered to journals production at Cambridge from the journal's editorial office, not direct from an author, ensuring that the production editor knows the files have been approved by the journal editor-in-chief / editorial office.

The editorial office and the author should ensure that an in-text citation to each Supplementary file has been made in the article. Preferably, in-text cites will appear in a separate section at the end of the article, following the text and preceding the traditional "References" or "Notes" section, and will include a URL address to be assigned by Cambridge.

Upon receipt by Cambridge University Press the production editor will record receipt of the Supplementary file in our internal tracking system. The author will be able to check in page proofs to be certain that the in-text citation appears properly; however, the Supplementary Material files themselves will not be circulated with the page proofs. When an article is published online, either as a *FirstView* article or as part of an issue, the Supplementary Material will be published online with the article.

Files should be in final, publishable format upon submission to Cambridge journals production. Cambridge will not edit or typeset Supplementary Material, or modify audio or video files in any substantive way. Cambridge will notify the author/editorial office if a submitted file does not meet our quality and size requirements. We can by arrangement convert audio and movie files to FLV format for streaming on the understanding that this may affect the resolution.

Some Supplementary Material may not be able to be submitted through our online peer review systems, due to file size or compatibility problems. In such cases the editorial office should submit the article manuscript through the online manuscript system, following normal procedure, and send the Supplementary Material separately to the production editor, preferably by FTP (with an email notification). Supplementary Material files should be clearly identified as such.

For instance, if John Smith includes a series of Supplementary Material tables to be published with his article, the file should be labeled <<Smith_supp.pdf>>. It is important for all involved to be able to see at a glance what the file represents.

Copyright

All Supplementary Material is subject to the same copyright requirements as primary material; this is clearly specified in the copyright form that will be sent to the author with first proofs:

"I/we hereby assign to Cambridge University Press, full copyright in all formats and media in the said contribution, including in any supplementary materials that I/we may author in support of the online version."

File naming

Files should be named in such a way that it is clear which article they belong to and what they contain e.g. J.Smith_appendix_table_1.xls
J.Smith_supplement-movie1.mov

These will then be renamed by Content Services according to the PII applied at logging in of the article to the Filemaker production record

APPENDIX: Supplementary file submission requirements

Audio Files

- Preferred formats: mp3 or mp4
- Accepted formats: AAC, AIFF or WAV
- Maximum file size 15Mb

Video Files

Video files should be submitted according to the following specifications.

- Preferred formats: mpg/mpeg, mp4 or mov
- Acceptable formats: wmv or avi
- Maximum file size: 15Mb
- Minimum dimensions: 320 pixels wide by 240 pixels deep
- Verify that the videos are viewable in QuickTime or Windows Media Player

For each video, provide a citation in the appropriate place in the manuscript text and include a title and pertinent copy, preferably limited to 20 words.

This citation will appear in print as a boxed text and also specify the video file format. In the case of multiple video files, number them in the order in which they should be viewed.

If associated with a figure, please include a citation at the end of the figure caption explaining the video's function, its file format, and that it is accessible at Cambridge's CJO site: journals.cambridge.org.

The video will be posted at the site of the appropriate journal title, volume, issue number, and article. At the article's title, the video can be accessed via a link which states "Supplementary Materials," or a more specific label such as "Movies."

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Other acceptable file formats

Accepted formats: pdf, doc/docx, xls/xlsx, ppt/pptx, jpeg, tiff, png, and zip

(24/04/2018)