

## PROPOSAL

### Thematic Issue *Cahiers Agricultures*

# Family Farming in the Transition towards Sustainable Society

## Coordinators

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## Summary

Family farming as well as smallholder agriculture and peasant agriculture, hereafter family farming, are recognized as the dominant forms of agriculture both in the global north and the global south in the past and the present. The literature of social sciences has demonstrated their persistence and social legitimacy, their ability to fight for autonomy in the context of industrialization, globalization, and urbanization of agri-food sector and rural communities as well as the constraints they are facing (Bélières et al., 2015; Bonanno, 1987; Sourisseau, 2015; Brookfield, 2007; Van der Ploeg, 2008). At the same time, some of them have embraced opportunities to supply their products to agri-food industry and have contributed to the industrialization of agri-food for decades (Servolin, 1972; Friedmann, 1978). Characterized by its own internal diversity, family farming increasingly encounters different forms of farming in rural spaces, such as entrepreneur farming, corporate farming, transnational agribusinesses, which often compete with the diverse types of family farming for local resources, political support, and markets under the neoliberalization of agri-food policies (Sekine and Bonanno, 2016). To survive in economic crises, climate change, ecological degradation and regain autonomy, family farmers tend to seek alternative forms of agri-food production such as agroecology and pursue food sovereignty in cooperation with other social constituencies and civil society actors (McKeon, 2015; Miguel, 1995; Van der Ploeg, 2008).

Over the last decade, the international community has conferred significant recognition to family farming in the context of sustainable development (HLPE 2013). The declarations of the International Year of Family Farming (2014), the United Nations Decade of Family Farming (2019-2028) and the UN Declaration of the Rights of Peasants and Other People Working in Rural Areas (2018) testify to the acknowledgement of the importance of family farmers, smallholders and peasants and the family farming they practice as key players in the transition towards sustainable society. However, family farming continues to face significant challenges such as difficulties in farm succession to younger generations, gender inequity, environmental deterioration, market competition, lack of political support,

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sanitary crises, and wars and conflicts. The aim of this Thematic Issue is to share the outcomes of recent studies on family farming, their struggles for autonomy and sustainability, collective approaches for rural revitalization, the new forms of governance, constraints, and challenges, in the global north and the global south. The papers of both theoretical and empirical studies are welcome.

## Literature

- Altieri MA. 1995. *Agroecology: the science of sustainable agriculture, 2nd ed.* Colorado: Westview Press Inc. 433 p.
- Bélières JF, Bonnal P, Bosc PM, Losch B, Marzin J, Sourisseau JM. 2015. *Family farming around the world : definitions, contributions and public policies.* Paris: Agence Française de Développement. 186 p.
- Bonanno A. 1987. *Small farms: persistence with legitimation.* Colorado: Westview Press Inc. 228 p.
- Brookfield H, Parsons, H. (2007). *Family farms: survival and prospect.* Abingdon, UK: Routledge.
- Friedmann H. 1978. Simple Commodity Production and Wage Labour in the American Plains, *The Journal of Peasant Studies*, 6(1): 71-100.
- HLPE. 2013. *Investing in smallholder agriculture for food security.* Rome: the High Level Panel of Experts on Food Security and Nutrition of the Committee on World Food Security. 112 p.
- McKeon N. 2015. *Food security governance: empowering communities, regulating corporations.* Routledge Critical Security Studies. 246p.
- Servolin C. 1972. L'absorption de l'agriculture dans le mode de production capitaliste. In: *L'univers politique des paysans dans la France contemporaine*, sous la direction de Yves Tavernier, Y., Gervais, M. et Servolin, C. Presses de Sciences Po, Paris, 41-77.
- Sourisseau JM (ed.). 2015. *Family farming and the worlds to come.* New York: Springer. 361 p.
- Sekine K, Bonanno A. 2016. *The contradictions of neoliberal agri-food: corporations, resistance, and disasters in Japan.* Morgantown: West Virginia University Press. 240 p.
- Van der Ploeg JD. 2008. *The new peasantries: struggles for autonomy and sustainability in an era of empire and globalization.* New York: Earthscan. 356 p.

## The proposed Thematic Issue

We propose a Thematic Issue that includes a set of invited papers that we collected through the sessions held at the 15th World Congress of Rural Sociology of the International Rural Sociology Association in July 2022 in Cairns, Australia as well as other semi-open-call papers. Pierre-Marie Bosc and Kae Sekine who authored HLPE (2013) and co-organized one of these sessions, Nora McKeon who led the discussions on food security governance in the UN/CFS and delivered an outstanding keynote speech in the congress, and Jean-Michel Sourisseau who follows and participates in the International Decade of Family Farming for CIRAD, serve as coordinators of this Thematic Issue. The papers presented in the sessions, that shed light on the recent evolution of family farming / smallholders, their efforts to the transitions towards sustainable society, related public policies, constraints, and their resistance to new challenges in the global south and the global north, met with outstanding interest during the congress.

## Schedule

Deadlines	What's to do by whom
September 30, 2022	Submission of titles and abstracts (300 words) by the authors
October 15, 2022	Submission of Thematic Issue proposal to Cahiers Agricultures by the coordinators
December 31, 2022	Submission of first draft of full papers by the authors to the coordinators
January 31, 2023	Internal review of submitted papers by the coordinators and suggestions to the authors
February 28, 2023	Submission of full papers to the Cahiers Agricultures by the authors
March – August 2023	2 review rounds
September 2023	Publication of Thematic Issue