INSTRUCTIONS TO AUTHORS

MAJOR GUIDELINES

Key instructions are summarized in the following table:

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| Pages number | < 15 pages Times 11, 1.5 spacing | unlimited |
| Figures and tables | 5 maximum, 2 tables maximum | unlimited |
| Introduction figure | Must contain 1/2 color photos | Must contain 1/2 color photos |
| Figure captions | > 3 sentences | > 3 sentences |
| Figure format | Y axis title horizontal; no symbol legend | Y axis title horizontal; no symbol legend |
| Figure items | Max 2 items per figure | Max 2 items per figure |
| References | < 30 ; must contain the DOI | > 30 ; must contain the DOI |
| Cover letter | Must explain the novelty | Must explain the interest |

ARTICLES

Agronomy for Sustainable Development publishes two types of papers: Research articles and Review articles. The findings should be located at the interface of Agriculture and Sustainable Development: see Aims and Scope for specific topics.

SUBMISSION

Agronomy for Sustainable Development only accepts online submission, at the following address: [http://www.editorialmanager.com/asde](http://www.editorialmanager.com/asde)

The manuscript must be accompanied with a cover letter containing the article title, the full first name (no initial) and last name of all the authors, a paragraph describing the claimed novelty of the findings versus current knowledge, and a list of six suggested, international reviewers (title, name, postal address, Email address).

EDITORIAL PROCEDURE - REVIEW ARTICLES

For review articles please follow the general instructions for research articles below, with the following exceptions:
The page number is not limited;
The abstract of less than 300 words should contain two parts: the first part should give general and global issues, then specific and scientific issues in about 5-6 sentences. The second part should start by, e.g., “Here we review... The major points are the following: 1)...
2)...”. Those points are major advances that are demonstrated in the article by literature analysis. The reader should clearly understand the added value of those advances.
The first section of the article should be “1. Introduction”, and the last section “X. Conclusion”. All sections and sub-sections should be numbered.
A Contents should be inserted after the list of keywords, before the introduction section.

EDITORIAL PROCEDURE - RESEARCH ARTICLES

General
Research articles should report the results of original research. The material should not have been previously published or submitted for publication elsewhere. Research articles should focus on one major discovery supported by 2-4 results.

Preselection at the submission stage
Manuscripts that do not strictly follow the instructions will be declined at the submission stage. An Advisory Board evaluates articles before sending them for in-depth review. About 70% of submitted articles are declined at this stage, notably because instructions are not applied strictly.

Novelty
The novelty, or difference, of the major finding versus current knowledge should be clearly explained in:
- the cover letter to the Editor-in-Chief;
- the abstract;
- the end of the Results and Discussion section;
- the Conclusion section.
To explain the novelty, the author should first state what is already known (current knowledge), then state what the added value of the main finding is. Only articles that show an outstanding added value will be sent for in-depth evaluation.

English
All manuscripts should be written in high-quality American English. Non-English native authors should seek appropriate help from English-writing professionals before submission.

Sections
The text should start with: article title; name of authors with an asterisk “*” highlighting the corresponding author; postal addresses; e-mail address of the corresponding author. The text should contain the following sections:
- Abstract (less than 300 words)
- List of keywords (maximum 10)
- 1. Introduction
- 2. Materials and methods (including subsections - 2.1, 2.2...)
- 3. Results and discussion (including topical subsections - 3.1, 3.2...)
4. Conclusion
Acknowledgments
5. References
Other sections such as annexes and appendices are not accepted.
Separated "results" and "discussion" sections are not accepted.

General presentation
The text length is limited to 15 pages, including figures, tables and references. The number of literature references is limited to 30, except for review articles. All text should be written in a concise and integrated way, by focusing on major points, findings, breakthrough or discoveries, and their broad significance. All running text should be in Times 11 or Times New Roman 11, 1.5 spacing. Figure and table captions should be written in Times 10 or Times New Roman 10. Lines, as well as every page of the manuscript, including the title page, references, tables, etc. should be numbered.

Title
The title should be short and focused on the main scientific discovery.

Abstract
The abstract of less than 300 words should report concisely on the main scientific breakthrough. The abstract should preferably not contain general statements, abbreviations, and literature references. The abstract is structured in three parts: the first part abstracts the Introduction section, it thus gives the background, the global and specific issues, and the hypothesis (about 3-4 sentences). The second part abstracts the Experimental section, it thus gives a brief overview of the experiments (about 2-3 sentences). The third part abstracts the Results and discussion section, it thus gives: the 1-2 major results using precise trends and data, then the interpretation of those results, then the claimed novelty of those results versus current knowledge, then the basic or applied benefits of those results for sustainable agriculture. Novelty claims should be made in an affirmative way, using for instance “Here we show that ...”, “Here we demonstrate that ...” or “This is the first...

Abbreviations
In general abbreviations are not accepted in the main text because they decrease article impact. Only 1-2 common abbreviations such as DNA or PCR are accepted in the main text. They should be explained at the first time of appearance. Abbreviations in figures, tables and equations are accepted only if there is not enough space to write full words. Here, abbreviations should be explained in figure and table captions, or after equations.

Footnotes
Footnotes in the running text and in tables are not accepted. Table footnotes should be included in the table caption.

REFERENCES
Citation
Cite references in the text by name and year in parentheses. Some examples:
• Negotiation research spans many disciplines (Thompson 1990).
• This result was later contradicted by Becker and Seligman (1996).
• This effect has been widely studied (Abbott 1991; Barakat et al. 1995; Kelso and Smith 1998; Medvec et al. 1993).

Reference list
The list of references should only include works that are cited in the text and that have been published or accepted for publication. Personal communications and unpublished works should only be mentioned in the text. Do not use footnotes or endnotes as a substitute for a reference list. Reference list entries should be alphabetized by the last names of the first author of each work. The DOI should be indicated when available.

• Journal article
Ideally, the names of all authors should be provided, but the usage of “et al” in long author lists will also be accepted:

• Article by DOI

• Book

• Book chapter

• Online document

• Dissertation
Trent JW (1975) Experimental acute renal failure. Dissertation, University of California

Always use the standard abbreviation of a journal’s name according to the ISSN List of Title Word Abbreviations, see www.issn.org/2-22661-LTWA-online.php

For authors using EndNote, Springer provides an output style that supports the formatting of in-text citations and reference list.

The authors should check very carefully that references cited in text are in the reference list; and that references in the list are cited in the text. The accuracy of references should also be carefully checked.
ARTWORK (TABLES AND FIGURES)
Tables and figures should be uploaded as separated files at the submission stage. Their place in the manuscript should be clearly indicated by authors.

Color figure in the introduction section
For both research and review articles, the introduction must contain one figure including 1-2 color photos. This photo should show the main topic of the article to a wide audience.

Number of tables and figures
For research articles, the number of tables plus figures is limited to 5, including a maximum of 2 tables and the introduction color figure. For review articles, there is no limitation of tables/figures number.

Colours
Color figures are accepted at no charge for the electronic version.
In the hardcopy version of the journal, figures are in black and white (for color, authors should make a contribution, prices on request).

Format
The titles of figure and axes should be bold.
The Y-axis title should be written horizontally at the above-left of the graph, when possible.
Preferably, a graph should contain a maximum of 3 curves.
Symbol legends are not accepted; the name of a curve should be written in the graph, beside the corresponding curve, using arrows if necessary.
Regression equations should not appear on the graph, but rather at the end of the caption.

Captions
A “scheme” or “photo” should be named “figure”. Figure captions should contain a brief description of the main scientific point of the figure, using 1–2 well thought sentences: a figure should be
almost understandable without reading the main body text of the article. The characters should be in Times or Times New Roman with an appropriate size to be readable after 50% reduction.

**Target**
A figure should be drawn to highlight a novel scientific point that should be explained to the reader in the caption.

**Resolution and quality**
Figures and tables should be of high quality.
- Scanned line drawings and line drawings in bitmap format should have a minimum resolution of 1200 dpi.
- Combination artwork should have a minimum resolution of 600 dpi
- Halftones should have a minimum resolution of 300 dpi

**Figure Placement and Size**
- When preparing your figures, size figures to fit in the column width.
- The figures should be 39 mm, 84 mm, 129 mm, or 174 mm wide and not higher than 234 mm.

**Permissions**
If you include figures that have already been published elsewhere, you must obtain permission from the copyright owner(s) for both the print and online format. Please be aware that some publishers do not grant electronic rights for free and that Springer will not be able to refund any costs that may have occurred to receive these permissions. In such cases, material from other sources should be used.

**Accessibility**
In order to give people of all abilities and disabilities access to the content of your figures, please make sure that
- All figures have descriptive captions (blind users could then use a text-to-speech software or a text-to-Braille hardware)
- Patterns are used instead of or in addition to colors for conveying information (color-blind users would then be able to distinguish the visual elements)
- Any figure lettering has a contrast ratio of at least 4.5:1

**ELECTRONIC SUPPLEMENTARY MATERIAL**
Supplementary materials should not be used to support the author main conclusion. ASD does not allow graphs, schemes, photos, short tables and common figures as supplementary materials. ASD allows only three categories of supplementary materials: videos (V), audios (A) and large data sets (D). Videos and audios should explain a method, procedure or experiment in fine details, in order to ease replication by readers. Videos and audios can also show an author interview explaining issues and findings to the public. Data sets include only very large sets that are needed to draw a regular figure. Supplementary materials should be inserted at the end of a manuscript with a caption explaining in details the content, with at least five sentences, e.g. Video 1:... Audio 1:... Data 1:... Data sets can be referenced in the main article text only in the 2. Materials and method
section and in figure captions. Data sets cannot be referenced in the Results and discussion section.

**Submission**
- Supply all supplementary material in standard file formats.
- Please include in each file the following information: article title, journal name, author names; affiliation and e-mail address of the corresponding author.
- To accommodate user downloads, please keep in mind that larger-sized files may require very long download times and that some users may experience other problems during downloading.

**Audio, Video, and Animations**
Always use MPEG-1 (.mpg) format.

**Presentations**
Submit your material in PDF format; .doc or .ppt files are not suitable for long-term viability.

**Specialized Formats**
Specialized format such as .pdb (chemical), .wrl (VRML), .nb (Mathematica notebook), and .tex can also be supplied.

**Collecting Multiple Files**
It is possible to collect multiple files in a .zip or .gz file.

**Numbering**
- If supplying any supplementary material, the text must make specific mention of the material as a citation, similar to that of figures and tables.
- Refer to the supplementary files as “Online Resource”, e.g., “… as shown in the animation (Online Resource 3)”, “… additional data are given in Online Resource 4”.
- Name the files consecutively, e.g. “ESM_3.mpg”, “ESM_4.pdf”.

**Captions**
For each supplementary material, please supply a concise caption describing the content of the file.

**Processing of supplementary files**
Electronic supplementary material will be published as received from the author without any conversion, editing, or reformatting.

**Accessibility**
In order to give people of all abilities and disabilities access to the content of your supplementary files, please make sure that
- The manuscript contains a descriptive caption for each supplementary material
- Video files do not contain anything that flashes more than three times per second (so that users prone to seizures caused by such effects are not put at risk)
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After receipt of the corrected proofs, the article will be given a number, will be integrated in an issue and immediately published (continuous publication).