# **Special Collection Supplement in Agricultural Systems (AGSY):**

# **Enabling Inclusive Innovation in Agriculture and Food Systems**

**Request for Manuscript Proposals**

Expected publication date: December 2023 into 2024

About the Supplement

Supplement sponsored by: CGIAR’s Independent Science for Development Council

Open access funded by (no fee for authors): CGIAR’s Independent Advisory and Evaluation Service

[Agricultural Systems](https://www.sciencedirect.com/journal/agricultural-systems) is a prestigious international journal with an impact factor 6.765

* Guest editors: [Amy Beaudreault](https://iaes.cgiar.org/isdc/team/amy-r-beaudreault) (managing point of contact; a.beaudreault@cgiar.org), [Holger Meinke](https://iaes.cgiar.org/isdc/team/holger-meinke), [Md. Mofakkarul Islam](https://www.nri.org/people/islam-mofakkarul-md) (in alphabetical order)

## Supplement Goals

Author teams are invited to submit manuscripts that:

* Build on earlier work on innovation in *Agricultural Systems* and the wider agrifood literature;
* Review current practice and assess gaps in agrifood systems research to establish the rationale for inclusive innovation with particular attention toward future action;
* Propose pathways for expanded testing and use of inclusive innovation modes, and to evolve institutional practices and mechanisms; and,
* Draw upon evidence about inclusive innovation (e.g., empirical data; case studies) to the greatest extent possible (including evidence beyond agriculture and food systems).

*\*The Supplement will be open access at no cost to authors.*

Timeline

Manuscript proposal deadline: Tuesday, 28 March, 12:00 CET

Manuscript submission portal via AGSY: 1 June – 15 September

Publication: rolling publication starting in December 2023

## Supplement Abstract

The promise of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and its Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) to “leave no one behind” is a global development challenge with inclusivity at its core. The overarching theme of SDG 2 (zero hunger) also includes food and nutrition security and sustainable agriculture, highlighting the interactions with most of the other SDGs; FNS is an indicator in 12 of the total 17 SDGs. It is commonly agreed that, achieving these targets would require innovations, both technological and non-technological. While the goal of agriculture and food (agrifood) innovation is to benefit all, trade-offs are inevitable and must be made explicit to avoid its adverse impacts on equality.

Widespread calls exist for more inclusive approaches to research and innovation in agrifood systems. Greater capacity for inclusivity presents an important opportunity to not only achieve the ambitions/targets within SDG2, but also to increase the relevance, legitimacy, and effectiveness of research for development programs and institutions. This will require a shift in agrifood system paradigms, governance and resource allocation based on well-developed concepts and evidence-based practices.

Making such transformations a reality is an ongoing challenge while lack of clarity remains on how inclusive transformation for all can be achieved. A more deliberate approach to inclusivity in agrifood systems research and innovation requires continuous learning, grounded in real-world experience and practicalities, among a broad set of agrifood system stakeholders. In this supplement, practitioners and researchers will share evidence and insights about the scope and nature of inclusive practice and propose theories, methods, and pathways linking research to practice for more inclusive agrifood research and innovation systems. Collectively, articles in the supplement will enrich the evidence base for individuals, programs, networks, and institutions seeking to becoming more impactful by practicing inclusivity in agrifood systems innovation. Key arenas include understanding the need for further inclusivity, building capacity, setting boundaries, evolving institutional cultures, establishing enabling conditions and mechanisms, and measuring benefits from inclusive innovation.

## Background

The [Independent Science for Development Council](https://iaes.cgiar.org/isdc) (ISDC) is a standing panel of eight impartial, world-class scientific experts providing rigorous, independent strategic advice to the CGIAR System Council and other stakeholders. In 2022, ISDC published [Transformation through inclusive Innovation: Literature Review and Commentary](https://iaes.cgiar.org/isdc/publications/transformation-through-inclusive-innovation-literature-review-and-commentary), which looked at inclusive innovation in the context of the One CGIAR transition and presented the topic during a symposium at [TropAg](https://iaes.cgiar.org/isdc/science-forum-2022-events) 2022 as part of its Science Forum series. This ISDC-sponsored supplement dedicated to inclusive innovation will be a special collection of manuscripts that will explore themes that surfaced through this work, with attention to a wider range of research for development programs and institutions.

## Proposal Stage

The supplement seeks approximately 16 manuscripts based on the *potential* themes in the following [table](#_Supplement_Outline). The manuscript themes are suggested framing for the supplement. Themes are not a rigid blueprint, and one theme may attract several manuscripts while a single manuscript may include multiple themes. In addition, new themes may emerge through the proposal process. Part of the intent at the proposal stage, in addition to identifying sources of topical and compelling manuscripts, is to codesign the themes.

The guest editors seek proposals via targeted invitations and a public call that will be advertised through March. Proposals using the [template](#_Enabling_Inclusive_Innovation) (p. 6) should be submitted by the corresponding author[[1]](#footnote-2) **by 28 March 12:00 CET**. Late submissions will not be accepted unless agreed prior to the deadline by the [managing guest editor](mailto:a.beaudreault@cgiar.org). Proposals that do not use the template will not be accepted. A proposal decision email to the corresponding author from the guest editors is expected by mid-April. All proposals should be emailed to [agsystems@cgiar.org](mailto:agsystems@cgiar.org). An expectation of this supplement is that authors will also serve as peer reviewers for manuscripts. However, we do ask that additional suggestions for peer reviewers be provided in the proposal.

Please note that not all proposals will result in an invitation for manuscript submission. An updated supplement outline will be shared with corresponding authors after the proposal stage to support the cohesion of the special collection. If feasible, the guest editors will explore the opportunity for a joint manuscript of all authors interested in developing a closing piece for the supplement.

## Authorship Aspirations

To align with the supplement theme of inclusivity, the corresponding authors are encouraged to convene author groups drawn from diverse networks, disciplines, geographies, gender, and institution types, including individuals with direct, practical experience in inclusive modes of agrifood systems research and innovation.

Author groups are strongly encouraged to:

* Work in a collaborative, non-hierarchical, and self-reflexive mode aligned with inclusive, holistic approaches (e.g., embrace transdisciplinarity; explore governance concepts such as holacracy and multirationality);
* Embrace an exploratory approach that recognizes that a range of underlying worldviews have generated heterogeneous concepts and practices of inclusive innovation within the complex, evolving arena of agrifood systems research;
* Build on definitions of innovation as an emergent, contextualized process and inclusion as active, intersectional engagement;
* Engage with themes of diverse stakeholder knowledge, equitable access, local entrepreneurship, social empowerment, and system-level change; and
* Include a minimum of one coauthor in an agriculture or agrifood research field.
  + If requested, guest editors will make agrifood/agricultural researcher suggestions to author teams

## Manuscript Stage

Based on the manuscript proposal review, the guest editors will invite approximately 16 proposals to the manuscript stage. The corresponding author will submit the manuscript online from 1 June – 15 September. Additional details regarding online submission will be provided.

**Manuscript Guidance**AGSY publishes original scientific papers, short communications, reviews, perspectives, and comments. Although there is no absolute word or page limit for manuscripts submitted to AGSY, a recommended maximum is 8000 words for research papers, 4000 words for short communications, and 2000 words for perspectives.

Additional publisher requirements:

* Submit manuscripts according to the [Guide for Authors](https://www.elsevier.com/journals/agricultural-systems/0308-521X/guide-for-authors) and style guide for the Journal including but limited to:
  + A competing interest statement is provided, even if the authors have no competing interests to declare
* Use [Submission](https://www.editorialmanager.com/agsy/default2.aspx) portal
* Please refer to [support center](https://service.elsevier.com/app/home/supporthub/publishing/) for additional guidance/questions

## Supplement Outline

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| **Editorial 1: Inclusive Innovation in Agrifood Systems** |
| In this editorial, the guest editors will introduce the supplement and the rationale for inclusive innovation in agrifood systems (e.g., relevance, legitimacy, and effectiveness of research) and discuss heterogeneity in current thinking and practice. It will describe the purpose, methodological approach, and scope of the supplement and review the topics addressed by the author groups. Further, it will comment on how these manuscripts advance shared understanding of the need and nature of inclusive innovation. |

| **Manuscript 1: Inclusive Innovation in CGIAR and Agrifood Organizations** |
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| This “shcort communication” will supply the background for the supplement using the ISDC publication [Transformation through Inclusive Innovation: Literature Review and Commentary.](https://iaes.cgiar.org/isdc/publications/transformation-through-inclusive-innovation-literature-review-and-commentary) The manuscript will broadly examine in the CGIAR context inclusive innovation trade-offs and risks, and culture and concepts. Further, the manuscript will comment on lessons not only for CGIAR, but also for international development research organizations. This will include a shared understanding of the need and nature of inclusive innovation and offer ideas for future research, action, and investment. It is envisioned this manuscript would be a “short communication.” |

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| **Theme 2: Who Contributes and is Responsible for Inclusive Innovation?** |
| Within this theme, the guest editors advise the manuscript to explore the entities necessary to the practice of inclusive innovation. For example, producers, marginalized groups, researchers, value chain actors, local and national governments, and others who may play key roles in different contexts and types of agrifood system innovation. The manuscript may explore practices for identification (or self-identification) of groups to engage, and how, where (and if) to draw boundaries. |

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| **Theme 3: What Makes Inclusive Innovation Successful?** |
| Within this theme, the guest editors advise the manuscript should examine key features of inclusive innovation in agrifood systems and assess their importance in different contexts and types of agrifood system innovation. Of special salience is research work that explores questions around: context-specificity; novel modes of knowledge exchange and capacity sharing; multi-level engagement; emergent collaboration; leveraging direct experience in navigating shocks or changing practices; design thinking; participatory technology testing; shared value creation; multiple benefits; and system-level sustainability. |

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| **Theme 4: How Does Inclusive Innovation Happen?** |
| Within this theme, the guest editors advise the manuscript to explore learnings on approaches, mechanisms, and practices associated with inclusive agrifood system innovation and assess how and when they increase inclusivity and contribute to beneficial outcomes. Relevant research might include, inter alia, networks; governance practices; knowledge systems; business models; functional capacity development; innovation hubs; technology bundles; access to finance; incubators / start-ups; public-private partnerships; and policy engagement. |

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| **Theme 5: When Is Inclusivity Most Effective and Efficient?** |
| Within this theme, the guest editors recommend the manuscript to examine what benefits and costs are associated with inclusive practices at various scales, stages, and levels of innovation. It may address topics such as early-stage codesign; systematic demand analysis; pipeline development; trade-off analysis; and other approaches to inclusive agrifood system innovation. |

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| **Theme 6: Transition Pathways Toward More Inclusive Agrifood Research and Innovation Systems** |
| Within this theme, the guest editors advise the manuscript to review and assess potential transition pathways toward more inclusive agrifood research and innovation systems. It may explore different approaches such as social empowerment; institutional evolution (e.g., internal incentives and resource allocation, capacity building); and cross-sectoral engagement. |

| **Theme 7: Best Practices for Agrifood Inclusive Innovation** |
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| Within this them, the guest editors recommend the manuscript to review existing recommendations for best practices of inclusive innovation and assess their underlying evidence base. Topics may include: elevating marginalized groups; navigating divergent mindsets and cultural norms; mechanisms for local participatory innovation and entrepreneurship; governance (e.g., conflict resolution; compromise; compensation); data creation and access; human-centered approaches; and roles within research partnerships and co-innovation processes. Are some approaches better than others? |

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| **Theme 8: Building Inclusive Research Capacities** |
| Within this theme, the guest editors recommend the manuscript to explore current practice and what is needed to build inclusive research capacities among individuals, programs, networks, and institutions working in agrifood systems. Topics may include: non-hierarchical and self-reflexive modes; transdisciplinarity; multi-generational and -sectoral research teams; institutional up-skilling; and effective practices for measurement, evaluation, impact assessment, and learning. |

# **Special Collection Supplement in Agricultural Systems (AGSY):**

# **Enabling Inclusive Innovation in Agriculture and Food Systems Proposal Template**

*Please email completed proposal template by* ***12:00 CET, 28 March*** *to* [*agsystems@cgiar.org*](mailto:agsystems@cgiar.org)*. Late submissions will not be accepted unless an alternative date for submission is approved by the* [*managing guest editor*](mailto:a.beaudreault@cgiar.org) *prior to the submission deadline. Please submit proposal in Microsoft Word.*

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| **Tentative Title & Abstract** |
| **Manuscript Tentative Title** |
| **Abstract**  Abstract guidance: A concise and factual abstract of no more than 400 words. It reports concisely on the main findings. To this end, the abstract is structured in five parts : 1. CONTEXT presents the background and the issues; 2. OBJECTIVE explains the objectives of the research; 3. METHODS provides a brief overview of the material and methods used; 4. RESULTS AND CONCLUSIONS presents the main results using quantitative facts whenever possible, and the interpretation of those results; 5. SIGNIFICANCE highlights the novelty of those results and their implications for science, policy and practice. References are not allowed. Also, non-standard or uncommon abbreviations should be avoided (Abstract [guidelines](https://www.elsevier.com/journals/agricultural-systems/0308-521X/guide-for-authors) by AGSY) |

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| **Author(s) Information** |
| **Corresponding Author**: Please include full name, email, mailing address, geographic origin, institution, gender, and other diversity elements described in Authorship Aspirations (e.g., early career) in the Request for Proposals |
| **Coauthors**: Please include for all coauthors full name, geographic origin, institution, gender, and other diversity elements described in Authorship Aspirations (e.g., early career) in the Request for Proposals |
| **Type of Manuscript**: Please refer to Manuscript Guidance in the Request for Proposal |
| **Coordinating theme from Request for Proposals. If not within a theme, write “suggested theme”** |
| **Proposed peer reviewers**: Although an expectation is for supplement authors to serve as peer reviewers for other manuscripts, we request the name and email of two additional proposed peer reviewers. |

1. The corresponding author will handle correspondence at all stages of refereeing and publication, also post-publication. This responsibility includes answering any future queries about Methods and Materials. [↑](#footnote-ref-2)