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Sustainability of Local Dairy Farming Systems

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Message from the Guest Editors

Dear Colleagues,

Local dairy farms play a fundamental role in the food security of the rural population by supplying food with high nutritional value. However, the challenges faced by livestock production, which include, among others, the high input costs, the emission of greenhouse gases, climate change, the abandonment of livestock by the young population, and competition with large-scale dairy production, endanger the sustainability of local farms. In local dairy farming systems, the links between agriculture, nutrition, society, and the environment condition the system's structure and, thus, its sustainability.

In this context, the purpose of this Special Issue is to deepen our knowledge on the challenges and opportunities faced by local dairy farming systems, as well as strategies to address the problems faced by the sector.

We invite original manuscripts on aspects concerning the characterization and typology of local dairy farming systems, strategies to improve the sustainability of local dairy farming systems, and effects of current production challenges in local dairy farming systems, among others.



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Special Issue



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Message from the Editor-in-Chief

Animals is an on-line open access journal that was first published in 2011. *Animals* adheres to rigorous peerreview and editorial processes and publishes only high quality manuscripts that address important issues in the many varied disciplines that involve animals, with a focus on animal science, animal welfare and animal ethics. *Animals* is covered in the Science Citation Index Expanded (SCIE) in Web of Science, with the latest Impact Factor: 3.0 (2022, ranks 12 /62 (Q1) in ‘Agriculture, Dairy & Animal Science’; 13/143 (Q1) in ‘Veterinary Sciences’), 5-Year Impact Factor: 3.2.

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