



Smart and Innovative Agriculture—from Outdoor Agriculture to Plant Factories

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Message from the Guest Editor

Dear Colleagues,

Global agriculture is undergoing a deep transformation to face the challenges of a lack of natural resources, reducing energy consumption and the societal awareness of food quality. Practitioners must produce enough food to match the needs of the growing world population. Additionally, they have to improve food security, save resources (water, energy) and preserve ecosystems. The digital transformation based on smart production methods and connected sensors is a promising way to find responses to these challenges.

In urban areas, vertical farms are emerging to produce a local supply of specific foodstuffs. However, this production mode must improve its energy efficiency and offer a larger choice of edible products. In areas close to cities, crop production in greenhouses and open fields allows local supply with a certain energy footprint and a variable level of resource use. In particular, innovative solutions based on the use of connected sensors and artificial intelligence should provide resource efficiency gains.





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Message from the Editor-in-Chief

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