

Special Issue

Wild Food for Healthy, Sustainable, and Equitable Local Food Systems

Message from the Guest Editors

In this Special Issue, we would like to highlight research on the role of wild foods in helping to foster healthy, sustainable, and equitable local food systems. Food insecurity, the condition in which individuals and households lack regular access to sufficient, safe, nutritious, and culturally appropriate food, is on the rise across the world due to myriad factors including increasing income inequality within and between nations, the lasting effects of the COVID-19 pandemic, and Russia's invasion of Ukraine, to name just a few. This model is linked to increasing local food insecurity as communities move away from the production of so-called traditional food crops. Alternative food movements have arisen worldwide to challenge this process and build more equitable and sustainable local food systems. While there is already substantial and still-growing literature on alternative food systems, one area remains understudied, namely, the role that wild foods play in food systems that afford resilience, equity, and sustainability at the individual, household, and community levels.

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