



## **Agri-Environmental Value of Semi-Natural Grasslands: Degradation, Proper Management, and Restoration**

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### **Message from the Guest Editor**

Despite their ancient origin, species-rich semi-natural grasslands still excel among agricultural ecosystems for their multifunctionality, including important agricultural benefits (high-quality forages, niche food products, agro-tourism, etc.) and environmental services (biodiversity, hydrological cycle, carbon sequestration, etc.).

Unfortunately, their extent and quality has been alarmingly reduced in recent decades. Highlighting the causes and losses from grassland degradation in addition to the benefits from proper management of high-quality grassland is therefore crucial for justifying policies aimed at supporting their conservation.

Ecological restoration has also become an important tool for maintaining grassland multifunctionality. Reintroducing species-rich grasslands can increase the environmental value of both agricultural areas (e.g., in livestock farming, field margins, herbaceous–woody cropping systems) and extra-agricultural environments (e.g., in urban parks, green roofs, road embankments, riverbanks, ski slopes).





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## Message from the Editor-in-Chief

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