

**EDITORIAL****Open Access**

Agriculture & Food Security: first anniversary

Malcolm Elliott^{1*}, Molly Jahn² and Magdy Madkour³**Anniversary editorial**

We are delighted to celebrate the first anniversary of *Agriculture & Food Security* with you, our readers. In our Launch Editorial [1] we highlighted the crucial role of agriculture in delivering improved food security to a global population that will reach ten billion by the end of the century, while maintaining biodiversity and other critical ecosystems services. This global challenge must confront the problems of climate change, recognizing that agricultural greenhouse gas emissions must be managed as much as possible, while using fewer natural resources and producing improved outcomes in human dimensions. Clearly this will require new knowledge-intensive processes, which are rapidly developed, rigorously tested and widely disseminated. In these causes we have emphasized the advantages of publishing in *Agriculture & Food Security* which, as an open access journal, provides unrestricted access to research workers, decision makers and lay people around the world. Clearly, open access gives publications a worldwide audience far larger than any subscription-based journal so as to increase the visibility and impact of published work and comply with new commitments in major international research organizations. Our journal also enhances indexing and retrieval while eliminating the need for permission to reproduce and distribute material.

We are particularly grateful to the distinguished members of our Editorial Board [<http://www.agricultureandfoodsecurity.com/about/edboard>] who have given their time to advise us on the way forward, and to participate, along with other experts, in the peer review process, which has ensured that our publications are of very high quality. Our community has welcomed *Agriculture & Food Security* by submitting fine manuscripts for peer review and we have published twenty-six articles (comprising nine Research Papers, eight Reviews, six Commentaries and three Editorials, including Ademola Braimoh's Guest Editorial) along with a supplement on

'Fostering innovation through building trust: Lessons from agricultural biotechnology partnerships in Africa', which was guest edited by Calestous Juma, Harvard University, and a thematic series on 'Climate smart agriculture' guest edited by Ademola Braimoh, of the World Bank.

The journal website [2] shows that many of our articles have been highly accessed. Our most highly viewed article, *'Food Security for Africa: an urgent global challenge'* [3] by Albert Sasson has been accessed over 10,000 times to date. Other highly viewed articles include the Beddington *et al.* article *'The role for scientists in tackling food insecurity and climate change'* [4] with over 9,500 accesses, and the Mba *et al.* article *'Re-orienting crop improvement for the changing climatic conditions of the 21st Century'* [5] with over 7,800 accesses. In addition to these highly accessed articles, the journal website has welcomed some 36,000 visitors to date.

Now, as we enter our second year, we look forward eagerly to publishing further research outcomes within the field of food security with a particular focus on research that may inform more sustainable agriculture and food systems that better address local, regional, national and/or global food and nutritional insecurity, as we set our sights on immediate and long-term sufficiency.

Competing interests

The authors declare that they have no competing interests.

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