

INTERNATIONAL JOURNAL OF AGRICULTURAL MANAGEMENT: CALL FOR CONTRIBUTIONS AND EDITOR

We are launching a new journal, rooted in sound scholarship but relevant to everyone with a professional interest in profitable and sustainable food production, rural business and land management. We seek contributions from professionals and academics working in those fields. We also seek nominations for a new Editor.

A new academic/professional journal will be launched in the summer 2011, published jointly by the Institute of Agricultural Management (IAgrM) and the International Farm Management Association (IFMA). The ***International Journal of Agricultural Management (IJAM)*** will combine the resources and expertise of the *Journal of Farm Management* (first published in 1967) and the *Journal of International Farm Management*, while extending their depth of content and geographical coverage. Publication, through the Charlesworth Group and Publishing Technology (Ingenta Connect) will be quarterly online, with an annual print volume for subscribers.

The purpose of the new journal is to provide an international forum and source of reference for those working in agricultural management and related activities, including social, economic and environmental aspects of food production and rural development. Its objectives are:

1. To survey and report agricultural business management in its widest sense, including the application of existing and innovative methodologies to the analysis of production, marketing and agricultural merchandising throughout the whole supply chain, and the diverse use of agricultural resources to support and supplement rural household income and the rural economy.
2. To encourage the transfer of agricultural management principles across geographical, cultural, social and national boundaries, to the benefit of rural populations in both poor and rich economies.
3. To report developing pressures on agricultural and rural resources around the world; the challenges arising from those pressures; and the consequent opportunities for managers of land-based industries.

The provisional editorial team is seeking contributions which are relevant to those objectives, including:

- Articles based on original research, submitted for peer-review (up to 6000 words);
- Reviews of 'state-of-the-art' of research in relevant arenas, again subject to peer-review (up to 6000 words);
- Reviews of 'state-of-the-art' in agricultural or related practice (up to 5000 words);
- 'Viewpoint' articles taking a particular standpoint on current issues, and encouraging response from readers (up to 1500 words);
- Professional updating pieces (e.g. in rural policy, market trends, managerial practice) (up to 3000 words);
- Book reviews (up to 1000 words);

The target readership includes farmers and farm managers, growers, land managers, environmentalists, consultants, advisers, administrators, educators, researchers, students and those who formulate and/or implement government policy for rural areas. The requirements of academics are different from those of practitioners, though there is significant overlap, and so a balance will be sought

between learned articles based on theory and research and more applied, practice-oriented contributions (though still of high professional standard). Articles which can cater for both requirements, being based on rigorous applied research and drawing conclusions with direct relevance to professional/business practice, will be especially welcome.

Please write in the first instance to the Editor at editor.ijam@gmail.com, ideally with a short summary of the proposed submission. Detailed Notes for Contributors will be available on application.

What we offer contributors

For **academic writers**, IJAM will:

- offer a fast turn-round from submission to publication;
- guarantee an influential audience (combining the readerships of JIFM and JFM, as well as attracting new subscribers), with a particular interest to applied researchers;
- provide an attractive vehicle to early-career researchers who are daunted by the competition to publish in high-impact journals.
- give an excellent opportunity for publication in an English-language publication, in a field that is under-represented in many parts of the world.
- Help to meet requirements for a comprehensive dissemination process in European and other publicly-funded projects, and cope with the rising emphasis on demonstrating 'impact' in judgements of research quality assessment, with the mixed readership of the Journal providing an ideal audience.

For **professionals such as consultants and advisers**, a major incentive will be the opportunity to reach a wide audience and to highlight (indirectly) their own services or that of their employer. Those involved in research and rural development projects will find the Journal valuable in meeting their dissemination requirements. In some cases, it will be possible to reprint articles originally written for house magazines or conferences.

Editorial appointments

In the first instance *IJAM* will be run by an editorial team comprising Martyn Warren (University of Plymouth, UK; current Editor of the Journal of Farm Management) as Editor, with John Gardner (Massey University, NZ; current Editor of the Journal of International Farm Management) and Carl Atkin (Independent consultant, UK; current member of IAGrM Council and Journal Committee) as Deputy Editors.

The editorial team will be supported by an Editorial Board of around 20 persons. The Editorial Board will act as a sounding board for the Editor in operation of the journal, and will be a prime source of reviewers for journal articles. Criteria for selection of Board members will include wide geographical spread (to reflect the international nature of the journal), high professional and/or academic standing in the land-based industries and rural development, and proven ability in writing and/or reviewing articles at the level required by the editorial team. There has been an excellent response to calls for volunteers for the Board, but we would still be glad to hear from potential members in Asia, Africa, Latin America and Eastern Europe, as well as non-academics irrespective of location.

We will be searching for a new Editor to take over once the Journal is established, with a modest honorarium: please let us know if you would like to be considered – or to recommend someone else – by writing to editor.ijam@gmail.com.