

Submission and preliminary selection

All manuscripts should be submitted electronically in PDF format to the Editor-in-Chief, together with a list of 6 potential reviewers, including postal and email addresses. An Advisory Board will evaluate the research articles before sending them for in-depth review. About 60% of submitted articles are declined at this stage. The novelty versus current knowledge of the major result should be clearly explained in the cover letter, the abstract, the results and discussion, and the conclusion sections. The findings should be located at the interface of Agriculture and Sustainable Development: see Aims and Scope for specific topics. Agronomy for Sustainable Development publishes *research articles* and *review articles*. Review articles on a particularly hot subject may be suggested to the Editor-in-Chief.

Text and sections

For submission, the corresponding author should send two PDF files to agronomy@supagro.inra.fr: (1) the full article including figures and tables in the body text, entitled "NAM.pdf", where NAM refers to the three first letters of the first author last name; and (2) a cover letter containing the article title, the name of authors, a paragraph describing the claimed novelty of the findings versus current knowledge, and a list of six suggested, international reviewers (title, name, postal address, E-mail address).

At the acceptance stage, the formats required are RTF and/or DOC for the text. Figures in high resolution (> 600 dpi) should also be sent as separate files using (in preferred order) EPS, TIF or JPG formats. The name of all files should include the reference given by the Editorial Office, e.g. "A2044.rtf" (for the text) "A2044F1.tif" (for Figure 1), and "A2044F2.jpg" (for Figure 2)...

The title should be short and focussed on the main scientific discovery. The English style and figure quality should be excellent. Abbreviations should be kept to a minimum. The main scientific point of the figures should be explained to the reader in figure captions. The text length is limited to 25 pages, including figures, tables and references. The number of tables plus figures is limited to 10. The number of literature references is limited to 30, except for review articles.

All text should be written in a concise and integrated way, by focussing on major points, findings, breakthrough or discoveries, and their broad significance. All running text should be in Times 12 or Times New Roman 12, double-spacing. Figure and table captions should be written in Times 10 or Times New Roman 10. Figures, tables and their captions should be included in the running text of the article. Every page of the manuscript, including the title page, references, tables, etc. should be numbered. The article should include:

– First page: article title; name of authors (an asterisk "*" should highlight the corresponding author); postal addresses; E-mail address of the corresponding author; abstract (less than 300 words); keywords (maximum 10).

– Next pages: 1. Introduction, 2. Materials and methods, 3. Results and discussion, 4. Conclusion, and 5. References. Other sections such as annexes and appendices are not recommended.

Abstract

The abstract should report concisely on the main scientific breakthrough. The abstract should preferably not contain general statements, and literature references.

Abbreviations

Abbreviations should be avoided or kept to a minimum. All abbreviations should be spelled out the first time they are used.

Footnotes

Footnotes in the running text and in tables are not accepted. Table footnotes should be included in the table caption.

Figures and tables

Figures and tables should be of high quality. A "scheme" should be named "figure". A figure should be drawn to highlight a novel scientific point. Tables and figures and their captions should be included in the running text of the article. Figure captions should contain a brief description of the main scientific point of the figure, using 1–2 well-thought sentences: a figure should be almost understandable without reading the main body text of the article. The characters should be in Times or Times New Roman with an appropriate size to be readable after 50% reduction. The titles of figure and axes should be bold. The Y-axis title should be written horizontally at the above-left of the graph. Example of axis title: "Concentration (mg/L)". Preferably, a graph should contain a maximum of 3 curves. Symbol legends are not accepted: the name of a curve should be written in the graph, beside the corresponding curve, using arrows if necessary. The following types of figure are not recommended: bar graphs, 3D figures, and figures using 2 Y-axes. In the paper version of the journal, figures are in black and white (for color, authors should make a contribution, prices on request), but they appear in color in the electronic version.

References

References to web addresses and unpublished articles, are not accepted. References should be given to international journals and books. In the text, references should be cited by author and year, e.g. "(Brown, 2001)", "(Brown and Smith, 2001)", "(Brown et al., 2003)", "... as reported by Brown et al. (2001)". References should be listed in alphabetical order in the reference list. Examples:

Journal articles:

Clergue B., Amiaud B., Pervanchon F., Lasserre-Joulin F., Plantereux S. (2005) Biodiversity: function and assessment in agricultural areas. A review, *Agron. Sustain. Dev.* 25, 1–15. DOI: 10.1051/agro:2004049.

Xuan T.A., Elzaawely A.A., Deba F., Fukuta M., Tawata S. (2006) Mimosine in *Leucaena* as a potent bio-herbicide, *Agron. Sustain. Dev.* 26, 89–97. DOI: 10.1051/agro:2006001.

Books:

Henze M., Harremoes P., Cour Jansen J.I., Arvin E. (2002) *Wastewater treatment*, Springer, Berlin.

Book chapters:

Bird G.W. (2003) Role of integrated pest management and sustainable development, in: Maredia K.S., Dakouo D., Mota-Sanchez D. (Eds.), *Integrated Pest Management in the Global Arena*. CABI Publishing, Cambridge, Massachusetts, USA, pp. 73–85.

Huang P.M. (1990) Role of soil minerals in transformations of natural organics and xenobiotics in soil, in: Bollag J.M., Stotzky G. (Eds.), *Soil biochemistry*, Marcel Dekker, New York, pp. 29–115.

Edited books:

Bollag J.M., Stotzky G. (1990) (Eds.) *Soil biochemistry*, Marcel Dekker, New York.