



## 6<sup>th</sup> International Symposium for Farming Systems Design

### The 6<sup>th</sup> International Symposium for Farming Systems Design 2019

**“Agricultural systems designs sustained by nature”**

**Montevideo -24th – 29th March, 2019**

#### **Call for contributions**

Farming Systems Design (FSD) is an **interdisciplinary scientific community** of practice that promotes research and capacity building in the design of more productive, resilient, sustainable, and socially responsible agricultural systems. The research focus of the FSD community is the farm system level, the interactions and feedbacks at lower and higher levels of organization and the tools and methods required in the quantification of indicators across the productivity, economic, environmental, human and social dimensions of agricultural systems.

This community of scientists was brought together for the first time at a conference in Catania (Italy) in 2007, where the need to change from traditional field-level and disciplinary agronomic studies towards integrative and interdisciplinary research approaches was challenging. The success of the conference signaled the unexpectedly large interest of researchers to develop approaches and tools to support sustainable development of farming systems worldwide. The four following conferences held in 2009 in Monterey (USA), 2011 in Brisbane (Australia), 2013 in Lanzhou (China) and 2015 in Montpellier (France) reconfirmed the interest of the community to inform the dialog of science with practice, policy and business, and to foster co-learning processes. The sixth conference will be held in March 2019 in Montevideo (Uruguay) to continue strengthening the FSD scientific community and renew its commitment with generating knowledge and supporting innovation for a sustainable future.

The theme of FSD6 conference is **“Agricultural systems designs sustained by nature”**, seeking for designs that make more intelligent use of biological processes to support environmentally and socially friendly production systems. We want to promote process and system-level understanding and quantification of current efficiency of the use of land and other production factors at multiple scales (field, farm, landscape, regional). One of the specific targets of FSD6 is to widen the interdisciplinary coverage of the FSD community, beyond the original core of agronomists. We welcome contributions from crop and animal science (including fisheries), economy, social sciences, ecology, management science, knowledge science, computer science... provided they contribute to the advance of science on farming systems analysis, assessment or design.



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Montevideo is the capital city of Uruguay, a port town embracing the vast estuary of the Río de la Plata and at three hours by boat from Buenos Aires, Argentina. Agriculture plays a central role on both countries' economies, exporters of agricultural products to different parts of the world. This conference will present the opportunity to gain first-hand knowledge and information from the various initiatives towards the development of sustainable agricultural systems in the region, such as nature-inclusive agriculture, agroecology, peri-urban food production, grassland-based livestock, conservation farming, landscape agronomy, etc. Field tours will be offered in both countries and the location presents an ideal setting for a meeting like this.

**This call for contributions (300 words abstract) will close on September 16<sup>th</sup>, 2018 and is aimed to identify participants who will be invited for oral presentations in workshops and posters. These participants will be asked to submit a 2 pages paper before January 15<sup>th</sup>, 2019, in order to be published in the FSD6 proceedings.**

**We also open a call for proposals of mini-symposia: 90 minutes sessions including 5 oral presentations and discussion on specific topic or problem.**

#### Abstract submission process

The 300-words abstract should contain enough information to identify which concepts, methods, or applications are going to be developed in the 2 pages paper and oral/poster presentation. To help in the review process each abstract should be submitted with a selection of a **preferred position** (i.e. the position claimed in priority by the authors) in a matrix structure crossing a thematic novelty and an applied topic:

#### Thematic novelty (select one):

- TN 1: Novel methods to analyze or design farming systems,
- TN 2: Novel Farming systems knowledge (even if obtained with old methods),
- TN 3: Novel Innovation systems knowledge,
- TN 4: Success stories in Farming Systems Design and innovation systems, lessons from implementation in practice
- TN 5: Emerging challenges in FSD.

#### Applied Topics (TO) (select one)

- TO 1: Scaling up from farm to territory or global
- TO 2: Scaling down and up inside farms
- TO 3: Methods for quantitative analysis and comparison of cropping or farming systems
- TO 4: Complex adaptive systems: can we design operational farming systems with high agrobiodiversity?



- TO 5: Supporting policy decision with farming systems trade-off analysis, risk analysis and scenarios of change.

**Any type of agricultural and aquaculture systems** can be taken into account (including urban agriculture, greenhouse agriculture) from any part of the world, provided they contribute to the development of the FSD approach or to the operationalization of existing approaches to design farming systems.

**Any challenge for agricultural systems** can be addressed (food security, adaptation to climate change, sustainable intensification, bioeconomy, poverty alleviation, risk management, innovation and adoption...) provided they are addressed with an FSD approach.

**Any level** (between field and territory) can be considered provided there is a consideration of **scaling/integration** issue at farm level. This implies that research conducted at field or animal level without integration in a design process at farm or territory level will not be covered by FSD5. An exception will be made for field experiments or farm surveys which contribute to the development of quantitative methods for input-output-structure comparative analysis in cropping or farming systems.

**A large range of disciplines** is aimed to be shared during the conference (crop science, animal science, ecology, economy, sociology, modelling...) provided they address scientific questions related to farming systems analysis, assessment or design.

Any abstract meeting the FSD criteria described above, but not fitting into the topic list could be submitted in the category “others” with a proposal of topic into which it would fit.

#### Important dates:

- Launching of the call for 300 words abstracts: June 4th, 2018
- Deadline for sending 300 words abstract contributions for oral/poster presentations: September 16th, 2018.
- Deadline for sending proposals for mini-symposia, i.e. 5 oral presentations + discussions on specific topics or problems: August 19th, 2018.
- Communication to authors of evaluation results and invitation for oral presentations in workshops and posters. Launching of the call for 2 pages papers: November 1<sup>st</sup>, 2018.
- Deadline for sending 2-pages papers contributions for oral presentations and workshops proposals, in order to be included in the conference proceedings: January 15th, 2019.
- Final acceptance of the 2-pages papers after the review process: February 1st, 2019.



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