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Editorial

Exploration and mitigation of greenhouse gas emissions in ruminant and grassland systems

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Dear colleagues, authors, reviewers and readers!

In this first issue of Landbauforschung in 2019 we focus on the 'Exploration and mitigation of greenhouse gas emissions in ruminant and grassland systems'. In our *call for papers*, we highlighted the environmental and climate burdens related to methane and nitrogen emissions from worldwide ruminant production systems. We also addressed the role of soil carbon storage in grassland when it is threatened by mismanagement or when it is replaced by arable cultures. And on the other hand we highlighted that, more efficient management offers chances to improve ruminant productivity, to reduce its numbers worldwide and to alleviate its product-related climate burden. We asked scientists from all disciplines to contribute their knowledge on the multi-faceted role of ruminants and grassland and its management in today's international agriculture, and for efficient ways to mitigate their greenhouse gas emissions. Also we got some interesting research contributions from the 'International Conference on Agricultural Greenhouse Gas Emissions and Food Security: Connecting Research to Policy and Practice' that took place from September 10–13, 2018 in Berlin, Germany. Please find also a subsequently included article on pig production and greenhouse gases as accepted by the former scope of the journal.

One initiative of the new Landbauforschung editorial office, beyond the new focus as *Journal of Sustainable and Organic Agricultural Systems* from 2019 on, was to implement five new elements to increase visibility, quality and interest:

- A focus on a special topic announced in advance for each issue.
- A new 'Position Paper' format. This is a shorter scientific communication on ideas and new developments or demands or an innovative summary of developments.
- A strict international and interdisciplinary focus.
- A double-blind international review process with publication of all reviewers' comments on the website.
- Possibilities to place online comments to all forms of articles.

Particularly the new format 'Position Paper' challenged the authors to find focus. It was sometimes hard to claim the exclusivity and innovation of their position with the limited space available and at the same time to satisfy the reviewers' demands for scientific quality. We hope that with transparency in the review process we can show that discussions were already started here. We will also use this new format to stimulate scientific discussion and future topics.

With all mentioned changes it was a long but interesting path to finishing this first issue. We hope you enjoy the articles and position papers selected for publication. We would like to thank all reviewers who helped to select and improve the submissions. With their consent, all participating reviewers are listed at the end of this issue.

Hans Marten Paulsen and Claudia Heidecke