

## **Mountain Research and Development (MRD): Call for Papers, MRD 38.4** **Food Security and Sustainable Development in Mountains**

**Deadlines:** submission of notices of intent by **15 Nov 2017**; submission of full papers by **28 Feb 2018**

**Publication date:** Nov 2018 (MRD 38.4)

Food security is a key concern for sustainable development in mountain areas. According to the Food and Agriculture Organization, in developing countries up to 39% of mountain people are vulnerable to food insecurity (FAO 2015). The situation in mountains reflects a global food crisis, with the number of chronically undernourished people reaching 795 million and about 1 in 2 people suffering from malnutrition (World Food Program 2017). The main causes of hunger and malnutrition are rooted in persistent poverty, political and social marginalization, asymmetries in access to land and other natural resources, and the growingly uneven sharing of economic benefits derived from food value chains.

Solving this crisis requires moving beyond the current focus on production and productivity, and developing pathways towards more sustainable food systems. These food systems must be able to provide access to food for all, help implement the right to food, contribute to the reduction of poverty and inequality, and have optimal levels of environmental performance and social-ecological resilience (Rist et al 2016). In addition, research and policy must work towards governance of food systems that considers the broad constellation of social, economic, trade, investment, and environmental policies affecting these systems, in an effort to establish higher levels of policy coherence (IPES 2015). MRD aims to contribute to better understanding of the root causes of food insecurity in mountains, but also of the role of mountain areas in providing food to the lowlands. Furthermore, MRD aims to provide insights into possible options and pathways towards more sustainable food systems. MRD is looking for contributions for its 3 peer-reviewed sections:

**MountainDevelopment** (*transformation knowledge*): Papers should present systematically validated experiences and research insights into development solutions for reducing malnutrition and increasing food security for mountain people, while at the same time safeguarding mountain ecosystems. Papers that present new governance models and policies for more sustainable food systems are especially welcome.

**MountainResearch** (*systems knowledge*): Papers should take an integrative approach to analyzing food systems in mountains areas and how these food systems are linked with global trends. Topics may include the political ecology of agro-industrial, indigenous, and alternative food systems, the effects they have on mountain ecosystems, and the sharing of economic benefits related to them. Conceptual and methodological papers that address current conceptualizations of food sustainability and ways of assessing the sustainability of food systems in mountain areas are also welcome.

**MountainAgenda** (*target knowledge*): Papers should provide well-referenced overviews of discussions of food security in mountain areas; they should conclude with agendas for future research or policymaking aimed at increasing the sustainability of food systems.

### **Submission details**

- Please e-mail a **notice of intent** indicating your main research question, your conceptual framework, and your methodology to the Editorial Office **by 15 November 2017**: [mrd-journal@cde.unibe.ch](mailto:mrd-journal@cde.unibe.ch)
- **Submit your full paper by 28 February 2018**
- Guidelines for authors are available at: [http://www.mrd-journal.org/submission\\_GAuthors.asp](http://www.mrd-journal.org/submission_GAuthors.asp)
- For more information on the journal, see: <http://www.mrd-journal.org>
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