

Editorial

After consultation with the Associate Editors and the Wallace Center, we are pleased to announce a new title for the *American Journal of Alternative Agriculture: Renewable Agriculture and Food Systems*.

There was much discussion about the new title, which will be adopted formally from 2004. We believe the title needs to reflect a broader audience and mission for the journal, in order to move us forward from recognizing the need for alternatives to conventional agriculture, to the enhanced vision for a 21st Century agriculture that will achieve the balance needed to 'Sustain Earth and Its People.'

The world is facing unprecedented challenges — unchecked population growth, food security, environmental degradation, climate change, energy needs, persistent poverty, social unrest and armed conflicts, and rampant infectious, diet and ecosystem related disease. We need an agricultural paradigm that relies more on biology, ecology, and sociology, than on the primarily one-dimensional physical and chemical management approaches of the past. Agriculture systems are needed which utilize food production and distribution systems that rely less on non-renewable, petrochemical resources, and more on renewable resources from the sun for food, feed, fiber, and energy.

We seek to publish good science that underpins the diverse ideas and approaches to agricultural and food production that are economically, environmentally, and socially sustainable. We publish original research and review articles on the economic, ecological, and environmental impacts of agriculture; the effective use of renewable resources and biodiversity in agro-ecosystems; and the technological and sociological implications of sustainable food systems.

Starting in 2004, we are introducing a forum section in the journal that will present lively discussions, from differing viewpoints, on new or provocative topics. The first forum will address the subject of local food security.

The new title and associated changes are intended to advance our goal of creating a meeting place where scientists, educators, policymakers, farmers, and other practitioners can share their research and ideas. We welcome contributions from conventional agriculturalists striving toward more sustainable systems, as well as those working in organic, biological, biointensive, natural systems agriculture, and other alternative approaches.

We hope you will continue to support *Renewable Agriculture and Food Systems* and contribute to the meaningful research and discussion needed to advance our new vision for the journal.

If you have any comments about the journal please contact us at ajaa@cabi.org.

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