

Foreword

Grasslands cover about 40% of world's land surface. They are crucial to the livelihoods of more than one billion people, providing fibre, fuel and food. Many of the world's cereals are grasses. They make vital contributions to the conservation of biodiversity and to ameliorating climate change through carbon sequestration. However, they face the pressures of global population growth, challenges caused by demand for other food sources, the impact of climate change and declining funding for research.

This Special Issue of **Crop and Pasture** contains a selection of papers presented at the recent **International Grasslands Congress** (Sydney, Australia; 15–19 September 2013). The reviews document the current issues facing grasslands around the world and share the latest industry developments and solutions. The overall Congress theme was revitalising grasslands to sustain our communities. Key areas of debate concentrate on:

1. Improving production efficiency to revitalise grasslands
2. Improving grassland environment and resources
3. Grassland people, rights, policies, practices and processes

This collection of **Crop & Pasture Science** papers are innovative, stimulating and thought-provoking. The future of humankind depends deeply on understanding, managing and sustaining grasslands.

The published information in this Special edition will be of interest to new and experienced grassland scientists, extension workers, postgraduate/undergraduate students, agri-business professionals, policy makers and leading livestock producers and farmers from all over the world.

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