

Save the date: January 20-25, 2027

Hainan, China

Invitation to the

International Congress on Grasslands Agriculture

Integration of grasslands and societal needs through 'sustainable and ethical intensification'

Together with the grazing ruminants and other livestock that inhabit them, grasslands, have not only shaped human civilization but also enriched landscapes, sustained biodiversity, and nurtured cultures and economies across the globe. These living systems form the foundation of industries that transform forage and livestock into food, fibre, and other products, generating value chains that sustain rural livelihoods and drive global economies. By linking ecological processes with secondary production and industry innovation, grassland agriculture stands at the heart of our relationship with nature, our food systems, and the prosperity of farming communities.



Grassland agriculture is often understood as the science or practice of farming, including the management of natural grasslands or cultivated forages for animals to provide food, fibre, and other essential products. Yet, grassland agriculture is more than that. It extends beyond its practicalities and the science of food production, encompassing societal, ethical, and environmental dimensions. Equally, it is inseparably linked with agricultural industries whose innovations, processing, and market pathways transform the products of grasslands into livelihoods and opportunities. Agricultural research on grasslands fuels these industries, enabling them to expand sustainably, generate value, and return tangible benefits to farmers and rural communities. The intimate connection between science and industry thus not only drives profitability and resilience but also underpins the social fabric of those whose lives and cultures are tied to grassland landscapes.

We are pleased to invite you to the **Inaugural International Congress on Grasslands Agriculture**, a unique gathering of scientists, practitioners, industry leaders, policymakers, and communities. This congress and its integrated workshops will provide a platform for dialogue on how grassland agriculture can respond to the

demands of society, industry, and Indigenous knowledge systems. Together, we will explore pathways for advancing food systems that remain deeply rooted in ecological integrity, economic vitality, and social responsibility.

At the heart of our program lies a conversation about ethics and sustainable intensification. How do we balance the growing need for productivity with the moral imperative to protect ecosystems and honor cultural values? How do we design agricultural systems that are fair, resilient, and regenerative? By engaging with these questions, the congress aims to co-create a roadmap for grassland agriculture that not only sustains food and fibre production, but also fosters biodiversity, climate resilience, and the flourishing of future generations.

Why Hainan Island?

Hainan Island, often called the “Hawaii of China,” is a tropical paradise known for its pristine beaches, lush rainforests, and year-round warm climate. Visitors are drawn to its unique blend of natural beauty, vibrant local culture, and wellness-focused experiences—from exploring traditional Li and Miao villages to relaxing in natural hot springs. With world-class resorts, fresh tropical cuisine, and opportunities for adventure such as hiking in Yanoda Rainforest or diving in Sanya’s coral reefs, Hainan offers both relaxation and discovery in a truly unique setting.



Beyond its coastal attractions, Hainan is also home to rich grasslands that support diverse forms of tropical agriculture. Grazing cattle, buffalo, and goats contribute to a vibrant farming culture that intertwines with local livelihoods and traditions. These grasslands are not only central to food production and rural



development but also showcase how sustainable grassland management can balance agricultural needs with ecological preservation. Visitors interested in rural landscapes and farming practices can experience an authentic side of the island that highlights its deep connection between people, animals, and land.

Congress structure integral functions



$f(x1) = \textit{Environment}$

- Soil
- Water
- Gasses

$f(x2) = \textit{Production}$

- Ecosystem service
- Animals
 - Ruminants
 - Monogastric
 - Insects
- Plants
 - Forage cropping
 - Forestry
 - Medicines
 - Intercontinental knowledge

$f(x3) = \textit{Industry sectors \& technology}$

- Animal
- Plant
- Ecosystem services
- Computational, i.e. AI

$f(x4) = \textit{Consumer}$

- Preference & Perceptions
- Health
- Involvement

$f(x5) = \textit{Systems, indigeneity and synergies}$

- Design and creation
- Mixed and integrated
- Indigenous knowledge

Sessions and structures

Keynote speaker

- Day 1: $f(x_{1,2})$
 - Invited Scientist speaker
 - Presentations
 - Mini-workshop
 - Closing Industry speaker
- Day 2: $f(x_{3,4})$
 - Invited Industry speaker
 - Presentations
 - Mini-workshop
 - Closing Scientist speaker
- Day 3: Field trip/ tourism
- Day 4: $f(x_5)$ and integrative workshop
 - Invited Indigenous speaker speaker
 - Presentations
 - Half day Integrative major workshop
 - Closing Scientist speaker

Keynote speaker