

## INSTRUCTIONS FOR AUTHORS

**International Agrophysics** is an Open Access journal published by the Institute of Agrophysics, Polish Academy of Sciences. It serves as a platform for integrating interdisciplinary research on the soil-plant-atmosphere system. The journal aims to enhance the understanding of soil-plant-atmosphere interactions through in-depth physical, biological, or chemical analysis supported by insights from various disciplines within agricultural and natural sciences.

### Thematic scope

The journal is focused on the soil-plant-atmosphere system. The journal publishes original, novel research and review papers on any subject regarding soil, plant, and atmosphere and the interface between these elements. Manuscripts on postharvest processing and quality of crops are also welcomed.

Particularly, the journal is focused on the following areas:

- implications of agricultural land use, soil management, and climate change on the production of biomass and renewable energy, soil structure, cycling of carbon, water, heat, and nutrients, biota, greenhouse gases, and environment,
- soil-plant-atmosphere continuum and ways of its regulation to increase the efficiency of water, energy, and chemicals in agriculture,
- biodiversity, functions, and interactions of microorganisms in the environment in relation to sustainable agriculture and horticulture as well as changing climate, soil microbiology, and mycology; the structure, activities, and functionality of microbial communities, microbiomes, and holobionts; new bio(techno)logical solutions for control, diagnostics, and monitoring of plant diseases and soil health,
- postharvest management and processing of agricultural and horticultural products in relation to food quality and safety,
- mathematical modeling of physical processes affecting environment quality, plant production, and postharvest processing,
- advances in sensors and communication devices to measure and collect information about physical conditions in agricultural and natural environments.

The **manuscript** must be both original, not published previously elsewhere, and formally correct. The Editorial Board decides on the publication of papers, taking into account peer reviews, scientific importance, and manuscript quality. Papers accepted in the *International Agrophysics* should reveal substantial novelty and include thoughtful physical, biological, or chemical interpretation and accurate description of the methods used. Papers are published in English (British spelling). All manuscripts are initially checked on plagiarism, topic suitability and linguistic quality.

### The journal publishes:

- Original research papers,
- Review articles (survey publications),
- Short communications (notes).

**Publication ethics.** The journal aims to follow the COPE's Code of Conduct (Committee on Publication Ethics). In case of a discovered misconduct on the author's part, such as plagiarism, falsifying data or double publication, the journal Editorial Team will call for explanation and then undertake appropriate steps by following the COPE flowcharts. This may eventually include notification of authorities at the author's institution, withdrawal of the article in question and exclusion of any further submissions by the same author from being processed by the journal. Adhere to our Publication Ethics policy.

## Further Information

A **letter to the Editor** with a declaration that the article is not being considered for publication elsewhere is needed. The following information should be included:

- The research falls within the scope of the journal.
- All authors have agreed to submit this manuscript.
- The manuscript is not under consideration elsewhere and will not be submitted elsewhere until a final decision is made.
- The work is entirely original.
- What is the novelty of this work?
- Why do the authors think the paper is important and why should the journal publish it?
- Has the article been checked by a native tongue speaker with expertise in the field?
- Are you available as a reviewer for at least two other articles for *International Agrophysics*?

**Conflict of interest** (understood as contractual relations, financial associations, or other relationships that could influence the content of the article) should be declared by authors in a form of the following written **Declaration of Interest Statement** submitted with the manuscript via the online Editorial System:

### Declaration of Interest Statement

- The authors declare that they have no known competing financial interests or personal relationships that could have appeared to influence the work reported in this paper.
- The authors declare the following financial interests/personal relationships which may be considered as potential competing interests:  
...

Such a statement should, accordingly, either list all potential interests or express clearly that there are none.

The journal uses a **double-blind peer review process**, which means that neither the authors nor the reviewers are aware of each other's identities. Before submitting your manuscript to the Editorial System, please ensure that all **author names and affiliations are removed** from the document.

Please submit the names of four **potential reviewers**, including their postal and email addresses. Reviewers should be affiliated with institutions other than those of the authors. Suggested reviewers should have no personal or professional relationship with the authors.

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International Agrophysics publishes articles in the **Open Access** system with an **Article Processing Charge (APC)** of **800 EUR**. For Polish authors, the fee is **3500 PLN**. The price includes VAT. The person who submits the manuscript is responsible for the payment. After the article has been accepted for publication, the Author will receive an email about the payment. The payment should be made before the article is published.

### Manuscript Preparation

**The manuscript** should be clearly and grammatically written in English (British). This will help avoid severe misunderstandings which might lead to rejection of the paper. Papers should be prepared in the format of popular Windows text editors (**11 points, 1.5 inter-line, 2.5 cm margins**).

**Highlights** are mandatory for this journal. They consist of a short collection of bullet points that convey the core findings of the article.

The **Graphical abstract** is welcome.

The **manuscript** should be organized in the following order (**with subtitles**):

Abstract (up to **200 words**)

Keywords (up to **5 words**)

1. Introduction
2. Materials and Methods
3. Results
4. Discussion
5. Conclusions
6. References

Tables, Figures and their captions.

The **title** should be informative and concise.

The **Abstract** should not contain any undefined abbreviations or unspecified references. The abstract should be self-contained presenting all items of the paper's subject in which new results have been gained and emphasising the most important conclusions from the scientific point of view. Avoid using symbols and abbreviations in the Abstract. The Abstract should be divided into the following sections:

Background and Aims (stating the main purposes and research question)

Methods

Results (stating the main findings) and/or conclusions.

**Nomenclature is not needed** - all explanations should be placed in the text.

The **Introduction** should briefly place the study in a broad context and highlight why it is important. The current state of the research field should be reviewed carefully and key publications cited. Finally, briefly mention the main aim of the work and highlight the main conclusions. The author-year system for the cited References (**max 5 positions in one place**) should be used in the text.

The **Materials and Methods** section should be described with sufficient detail to allow others to replicate and build on published results.

New methods and protocols should be described in detail while well-established methods can be briefly described and appropriately cited.

**Equations** should be numbered serially on the right-hand side in parentheses.

Capitalize and abbreviate 'equation' when it is used with a number: Eq. (1). Leave ample space around equations. Subscripts and superscripts must be clear. Symbols for physical quantities in formulae and in the text should be in italics. Algebraic symbols must be printed in upright type.

**Figures** should be numbered consecutively in the order in which they appear in the text. Each illustration must have a caption. Captions should consist of a brief title (not included within the figure itself) and a description of the illustration. Keep the amount of text of a description of the illustrations to a minimum, and explain all symbols and abbreviations used.

Use high-resolution images (at least **300 dpi**). Produce images close to the final printed size. Use sufficiently thick lines to ensure that axes, points, trend lines, and legends are clearly visible. Place the vertical axis on the left side and the horizontal axis at the bottom. Do not include additional gridlines or frames. Use a white background. Place legends outside the plotting area. Component drawings should be labelled as a), b), etc., above the plotting area on the left side. Figure captions should reference each component drawing.

Special attention should be given to figure lettering. Ensure consistent font type and size across all figures. Acceptable fonts are **Arial, Times, and Symbol**. Ensure that lettering is large enough to remain legible after image reduction (up to a tenfold decrease). Axis descriptions should start with a capital letter and follow the format, for example: Time (s), Moisture (% vol.), (% m<sup>3</sup> m<sup>-3</sup>) or (% mass), (% g g<sup>-1</sup>). Thermal conductivity (W m<sup>-1</sup> K<sup>-1</sup>). When referring to figures in the text, abbreviate and capitalize "figure" as "Fig." followed by the number (e.g., Fig. 1).

Figure files should be saved in common image formats such as **jpg, bmp, tiff, or cdr** (at a minimum of **300 dpi**) and uploaded individually to the Editorial System.

**Tables** must fit within the printed page area, which measures 22 cm in length and 14 cm in width. They should be sequentially numbered in the order they appear in the text. Vertical lines should not be used to separate columns. When referring to a specific table, capitalize the word 'Table' followed by its corresponding number (e.g., Table 1).

**Tables and figures (with a white background and without frames)** should be integrated within the text.

**SI units should be used.**

A point should be used as the **decimal marker** (e.g., 0.1 m), while a space as the **thousand's separator** (e.g., 10 000.1).

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The **Results** section should be a concise and precise description of the experimental results, their interpretation, and experimental conclusions that can be drawn.

The **Discussion** should discuss the results and how they can be interpreted in relation to previous studies and the working hypotheses. The results and their implications should be discussed in the broadest possible context. Future research directions may also be mentioned. This section can be combined with the Results.

The **Conclusions** section should be consistent with obtained results.

Avoid using symbols and abbreviations in the Conclusions.

A multi-authored paper should include an **Authors' Contributions** section at the end of the manuscript, detailing the contribution of each author to the submitted work. The following categories should be used to describe these contributions:

- A - Research concept and design
- B - Collection and/or assembly of data
- C - Data analysis and interpretation
- D - Writing the article
- E - Critical revision of the article
- F - Final approval of the article.

The following statement should be placed at the end of the **Authors' Contributions** section: "All authors have read and agreed to the published version of the manuscript."

**Acknowledgements:** Authors are responsible for ensuring that anyone named in the Acknowledgments agrees to be named. Acknowledgements should be brief and concise.

The **References list** should be arranged alphabetically by the name of the first author and then the others. Two or more articles by the same author(s) should be listed chronologically, and two or more works published in the same year should be indicated by the letters: a, b, c, etc. following the year.

The References list should use the **Elsevier - Harvard 2** style.

We recommend preparing the references with a bibliography software package **Zotero** to avoid typing mistakes and duplicated references.

The References list should be written in English, French, or German. Titles of papers in other languages than those mentioned earlier should be marked e.g. (in Spanish), for example:

**Citations**

(Hisakata *et al.*, 2016; Hogue, 2001; Musk, 2006; Sambrook and Russell, 2001)

**Bibliography**

Hisakata, R., Nishida, S., Johnston, A., 2016. An adaptable metric shapes perceptual space. *Curr. Biol.* 26, 1911-1915.

Hogue, C.W.V., 2001. Structure databases. In: Baxevanis, A.D., Ouellette, B.F.F. (Eds.), *Bioinformatics, Life Sciences Series*. Wiley-Interscience, New York, NY, pp. 83-109.

Sambrook, J., Russell, D.W., 2001. *Molecular cloning: a laboratory manual*, 3rd ed. CSHL Press, Cold Spring Harbor, NY.