

# Advances in Ecological Research Volume 49

## Ecological Networks in an Agricultural World

This Volume presents a new theme of ecological networks in agricultural systems. Agriculture is the dominant human activity shaping the Earth's land surface. While agriculture provides many of the productivity services that facilitate our current human society, it also greatly impacts on the environment and may ultimately limit humanity's 'safe operating space'. Here, we have assembled a set of seminal papers that address these current and emerging topics in intensive agricultural systems. Given the diversity of agricultural systems and landscapes, the papers largely deal with concepts designed to unify our understanding of agriculture and the ecosystem goods and services delivered by it. This includes how we might join above- to below-ground agricultural networks and consolidate into networks the many interacting types of habitats that exist across agricultural landscapes. In the data papers, we also present our current best understanding of how to construct and test trophic networks, and predict for future changes in agricultural system performance.

Cover image: The concept is of a suite of networks that exist across agricultural systems and landscapes, which are typically considered in isolation but are, in reality, tied together into a 'network of networks'. It is the performance of this wider network that determines the likely responses of agriculture to change (insert photos courtesy of © CSIRO and of C. Mulder); design by David Bohan, Guy Woodward, Christian Mulder and Sarina Macfadyen.



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