

From the Editors

This is the fifth issue of the International Journal of Sociology of Agriculture and Food. It marks the continuation and development of the activities of the Sociology of Agriculture and Food Research Group of the International Sociological Association, and the establishment of the new editorial team : Alberto Arce (Wageningen, The Netherlands), Terry Marsden (Cardiff, Wales, U.K), and Manuel Belo Moreira (Lisbon, Portugal).

The issue represents some examples of current international work in progress.

Since the first issue of the journal in 1991, which represented the growth of theoretical and empirical activity in the field of the sociology of agriculture and food, and the redefinition of traditional concerns with the agrarian question to those associated with broader questions of food production and consumption, we have witnessed a significant flowering of diverse approaches. Interestingly, this is beginning to transpose both disciplinary boundaries and former intellectual traditions in rural sociology, such as those developed in Europe, Latin America and the United States respectively. These contemporary trends are providing a fertile arena for rural scholars and they are linking rural research creatively with other branches of social science. Indeed, new partial connections are being made

between , for instance, economic and cultural change, identity and circulation of commodities. The papers in this issue represent this trend.

From this perspective the intellectual project of the journal becomes even more significant in providing a platform for nurturing and developing critical and imaginative approaches to the increasing complexity and uncertainty of food and agriculture through to the next millenium. The journal holds the aim of facilitating the communication of fresh and challenging ideas, approaches and debates out of which research practices will emanate among the open community of scholars in the field. As editors , we would therefore welcome quality papers, research proposals and research notes for further debate. We are aiming to keep both English and Spanish as the main languages of the journal.

We particularly encourage new and recent entrants to the field to contribute to the journal. All papers, proposals and research notes should be sent in the first instance, in hard copy and diskette to Alberto Arce at Wageningen.

As editors we are looking forward to contributions to your international journal.