Guidelines for Authors - Organic Farming

1. Overview

Thank you for considering Librello as a venue to publish your work. Please read carefully the instructions below to prepare your manuscript accordingly.

- **Electronic format.** All manuscripts must be submitted in the format .odt or .doc. or .docx, 12pt Times New Roman, left aligned and with double-line spacing. Continuous line numbers and page numbers must be used throughout the text to facilitate the peer review process. Please do not use picture boxes in text to create special characters.

- The journal publishes the following **types of articles:** Research Article, Country Update, Review, Mini-Review, Debate, Commentary, Response. See below for further details.

- The **first page** of all articles must contain (1) the tentative title, (2) the list of authors (corresponding author must be identified) with (3) their full affiliation (institution and postal address) and (4) telephone, fax numbers and e-mail address for the corresponding author.

- The **Title** should describe the contents of the manuscript in a precise and concise way. It should be written in title case, i.e., all words should be capitalized, with the exception of prepositions, conjunctions and articles.
The **Abstract** should not exceed 300 words. It should introduce the study, explain briefly the techniques and summarize the most important findings and conclusions. Below the Abstract, the authors should list 4-10 Keywords in alphabetical order. Additional abstracts in a language other than English are welcome and may be published alongside the English Abstract.

**Citations** in the text should be done as numbers in square brackets, and the numbers must be ordered by the appearance in the text. The list of **References** must appear at the end of the manuscript, and the references must be formatted according to the Vancouver style. Footnotes are not allowed, notes must be cited in the text following the same rule as for references, and the notes must appear among the list of references. See below for further details.

**Figures** and **tables** must be inserted in the manuscript after their first mention in the text. The captions of the Figures and headings of tables should be concise, while providing enough information for the reader. Please provide us with Figures in high resolution, suitable for printing in their actual size. See below for further details and.

**Further guidelines** refer to the description of organic farming systems and experiments; the use of scientific names and units, statistical analysis, language, and supporting electronic information.

### 2. Types of manuscripts

- **Research Article**: These original articles have no restriction in length but will usually be up to about 8,000 words. The usual structure of a manuscript is according to the following headings: 1. Introduction, 2. Material and Methods, 3. Results, 4. Discussion, 5. Conclusions, Acknowledgements, References.

- **Country Update**: This type of paper describes and evaluates the situation of organic farming in a country or state; it should (1) report recent figures on the development of organic agriculture and food systems in a specific country or state; (2) discuss developments in national legislation and regulations; (3) highlight ongoing research activities and organic research funding; and (4) give recommendations for future research, policies, and development.

- **Review**: These articles are full length reviews of about 9,000–12,000 words. Reviews on important topics can include the traditional literature review, or more quantitative meta-analyses and syntheses. They should (1) be of broad interest to readers of Organic Farming, (2) highlight novel ideas and principles emerging over the past years, and (3) include a critical evaluation of research as well as prospects for future research directions. Authors considering the submission of a review paper are recommended to check guidelines recently published for writing reviews [1]. Reviews should be structured into numbered sections (e.g. 1. Introduction, …) and subsections (2.1., 2.2., etc.), but should avoid more than two levels of headings.

- **Mini-Review**: This type is a shorter review, of 5,000–7,000 words on a topic of high importance but less broad than what could be covered in a full Review.

- **Debate**: Debates consist of at least two opposing opinions on a highly topical issue which are published together. Each contribution should be a lightly referenced paper up to about 2,000 words. If you consider contributing to a Debate section please contact the editor-in-chief or one of the associate editors, proposing the topic and the opponents.

- **Ideas and Perspectives**. Organic Farming publishes essays articulating new ideas, emerging frameworks, and novel concepts and perspectives that are likely to appeal to a wide audience. Papers mainly reviewing a topic, statements of opinion, or papers mainly discussing the author's own work will not be considered in this category.

- **Commentary / Response**: Commentaries are published as a direct commentary on a particular original research article or review article published over the previous 6 months in Organic Farming. Commentaries should usually be up to 2000 words, and must be
referenced; authors will be invited to respond to the Commentary; both Commentary and Response will be published together; both will usually be sent out for peer review before publication.

- **Special Issues:** If you plan to submit a collection of papers on a specific topic please contact the editor in chief with a short proposal containing the background of the topic as well as a complete list of all papers to be included. Please indicate whether the contributions are papers presented at a conference.


### 3. Citations and References

**Citations** in the text should be done as numbers in square brackets, and the numbers must be ordered by the appearance in the text. The list of **References** must appear at the end of the manuscript, and the references must be formatted according to the Vancouver style. Footnotes are not allowed, notes must be cited in the text following the same rule as for references, and the notes must appear among the list of references.

#### 3.1. Examples of Bibliography

**Article**

**Book**

**Book Section/Chapter**

**Proceedings of Conference**

**Website**

### 4. Figures

Figures help to make research more visible and accessible [2]. They help present detailed results and complex relationships, patterns, and trends clearly and concisely, reduce manuscript length and improve readers’ understanding of the methods and results. Use figures to highlight trends, relationships and patterns within and between data sets in case the general pattern is more important than the exact values.

Ensure that all parts of figures are clearly legible and sufficiently labeled. The **figure caption** should not only be used to explain abbreviations and symbols but also serves to highlight the key message of the figure.

Acceptable **electronic figure formats** are .tiff, .pdf, .eps and .gif; Figures should be provided in a high resolution so as to reproduce well in print and online. Files from which original figures were produced should be submitted together with the manuscript.

Authors are encouraged to use **colour** figures and photographs where appropriate, i.e. where the colour helps to better convey the contents of the figure. However, authors should ensure
that readers are still able to extract the relevant information easily when the figure is printed in black-and-white. Also, in simple bar graphs, scatterplots and similar graphs, unnecessary use of colour should be avoided.

The use of gridlines and frames in graphs should be avoided. When creating figures please use a white background, not a transparent background, as figures with transparent background may not display well online. Lines in graphs should be at least 0.5 point and no more than 1.5 point in order to reproduce well in a pdf. Text within figures (e.g. axis titles) must be in Arial font and must be large enough to be still legible when the figure is reduced to about half its original size. Symbols preferred are ◦, •, □, ■, while + and × should be avoided.

Image files must not be manipulated or adjusted in any way that could lead to misinterpretation of the information present in the original image. When describing results from figures, avoid statements such as “Results are shown in Figure 2”. Instead, write for example, “Biodiversity declined with the addition of nitrogen (Figure 2)”. Also, be specific where possible: e.g., “positively correlated” instead of “correlated”.


5. Table

Use tables to show many and precise numerical values and other specific data. Tables, however small, should be numbered and referred to in the text by their numbers. Table captions should be brief, with any descriptions of detail given directly beneath the table, in parentheses. Column headings should usually be in lower-case type, and the units of measurement and any numerical factors should be placed at the head of each column. Units should be contained within parentheses, e.g. “yield (dt ha$^{-1}$)”.

6. Description of organic farming systems and experiments

Organic farming systems are diverse, complex and dynamic. Therefore, this journal places particular emphasis on a thorough, comprehensive and exact description of the research methods. The Material and Methods section should contain the following information regarding the field trials:

- Soil type and other fundamental soil properties such as soil pH, organic C content, and soil texture;
- Information on climate with tables or figures typically reporting monthly averages of air temperature and precipitation over the experimental period, as well as long term averages;
- Full rotation as well as pre-crops of the previous two years;
- Information on management including plant protection measures (products, amounts, dates), fertilization (type or product, amounts, nutrient contents, dates), irrigation (amounts, dates);
- Year of conversion of the experimental field or farm;
- Landscape features such as hedges or trees that may have interfered with field trials. A digital map of the trial should be included with the submission.

Please provide names and locations (town, state, country) of all equipment and machinery suppliers.
7. Scientific names of organisms and SI units

All organisms must be named with the scientific names (Latin binomial) according to current nomenclature; Genus and species names should be in italics. Authorities for the Latin binomial of every organism must be given, but are not used in the title or summary, and only on the first mention in the main body of the text. Gene names and loci should be italic. Virus nomenclature (and acronyms) should follow the guidelines of the International Committee on the Taxonomy of Viruses (ICTV).

Symbols, units and abbreviations should be expressed as Système Internationale (SI) units. If the paper contains many symbols, they should be defined as early in the text as possible, or within the Materials and Methods section. Time units are: s, min, h, days, weeks, months, years. Please use ‘L’ for litre not ‘l’ to avoid confusion with ‘one’. Use the negative index for units, e.g. t ha\(^{-1}\) (not t/ha) or g m\(^{-2}\) (not g/m\(^2\)).

8. Statistical Analysis

Experimental designs as well as methods of statistical analysis should be explained clearly and comprehensively in the Material and Methods section. It is recommended that statistical procedures be checked by a statistician prior to submission of the manuscript. The choice of particular statistical tests (e.g. comparisons of means) and procedures should be justified and referenced accordingly. Measures of central tendency (mean, median, mode) must be accompanied by measures of variability (standard deviation or standard error, range). The use of General Linear Models is preferred over data transformation (see [3] for details). Probability values should be denoted as \(p\). Refer to magnitudes of effects (e.g. give effect sizes and confidence intervals) rather than just \(p\)-values.


9. Language

Manuscripts must be written in English. They should be clear, concise and grammatically correct. Spelling should conform to the Concise Oxford Dictionary.

Authors whose first language is not English are strongly advised to have their manuscript checked by an English native speaker prior to submission. Manuscripts with serious deficiencies in English may be returned without review.

10. Supporting Information

Data which is too extensive for inclusion in article may be presented electronically as supporting information. As such, it will be reviewed as part of the paper. The availability of the supporting information should be indicated in the main manuscript by a paragraph, to appear after the references.

11. Publication Fees

Librello is a community-supported enterprise. Our journals are open for members to submit and their membership covers up to three annual submissions to any of our journal, and the fee payment is unrelated to the decision whether the manuscript will be accepted for publication. This way allows a quality control unattached to economic pressures.

However, we understand that sometimes institutions need some time to couple with changes and are not prepared to pay for our membership fees. For this reason, we have implemented post-
acceptance fees that cover single publications. These both methods of publishing in Librello are described below.

11.1. Membership Information

Librello was founded to democratize scientific knowledge. Our electronic journals offer unrestricted, unlimited, free access to any reader, with no subscription or registration required. Our members support the project through the payment of annual membership fees, allowing them to submit up to three manuscripts for consideration annually. All manuscripts undergo a meticulous and stringent single-blind peer review process, and only manuscripts deemed of sufficient quality and relevance will be accepted for publication. Our work goes beyond the organization of a fast, yet rigorous peer review and the archive of publications. For each journal we aim to publish the most relevant research and to guarantee the highest visibility of all articles by including our contents in the most important indexing and abstracting databases.

11.1.1 Librello Individual Membership

Membership is valid for one year and allows the first or correspondence author to submit 3 manuscripts to all Librello’s journals without any further costs. The membership fee is €300.

To become a member of Librello, an author simply creates a user account, registering in the website of the journal of his/her preference, and pays the membership fee by selecting the option “Pay Individual Membership” in his/her user account. Membership fees can be paid via PayPal within 48 hours of registration.

11.1.2 Librello Institutional Membership

Institutions interested in supporting open access and increasing the proportion of their publications available to the broad public are welcome to join Librello’s institutional membership. The institutional membership benefits all affiliated researchers with the possibility of unlimited submission, and can be pursued by an annual flat fee based on the number of academic and research staff of the institution.

Note: The institutional membership also applies for temporary collective organizations like research projects with multiple members.

11.2. Post-Acceptance Publication Fee

To offer our publication services to authors whose institutions are still unprepared to pay for our membership fees we offer the opportunity to pay for the publication of individual publications. Our PPF is due after acceptance but previous to publication and is currently €350.

11.3. Policy for Fee Waiver

The editorial work involved in processing the submission, from the selection of suitable reviewers to the preparation of the layout of the final version of the article, and also the post-publication efforts (indexing and abstracting, marketing and hosting) demand highly qualified experts and has high costs. Nevertheless, we are aware that some researchers cannot afford the membership fees of Librello. We are committed to the accessibility of academic publishing by making all our content open, and now we want to step forward and extend this accessibility also to our authors.

To these authors unable to accomplish with our membership program or with our post-acceptance publication fee, we offer the opportunity to apply for a fee waiver previous to the submission of the manuscript. The application should include the name and full affiliation of the author...
and cover the following topics: (1) Justification for the waiver request, including the funding source/agency of the research involved in the work; (2) Why the contribution is relevant and original in the field. The application should be sent by email to the managing editor of the journal and addressed both to the managing editor and Editor-in-Chief.

For a membership quote please contact us at membership@librelloph.com.