

Northern Eurasia in a tele-coupled world: Agricultural potentials and ecosystem tradeoffs

Conveners:

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Session Scope:

The socio-political changes and economic developments in Northern Eurasia during the 20th century resulted in drastic alterations of agricultural land use. For instance, former Soviet Union republics selected different land-use strategies to achieve national food security following the collapse of the Soviet Union. This had substantial socio-economic and environmental implications such as altered food production, biodiversity, and ecosystem service availability within these countries but also elsewhere too, due to the displacement of agricultural production to other countries. Northern Eurasia holds untapped agricultural potential due to existing yield gaps and widespread agricultural abandonment, while at the same time being of great importance with regard to biodiversity and ongoing global greening. Recent socio-economic and climatic developments, such as economic restrictions in Russia, rural hollowing in China, and ongoing browning in Mongolia, is likely to shape future agricultural development and land use within the region, but also in other countries due to the inter-connectedness of global trade.

This session will serve as a platform to present recent findings on challenging key topics regarding agricultural potentials and ecosystem trade-offs within the region, but also implications on global food security and environmental impacts in other continents too. The session is opened to regional, national and case study investigations in former Soviet Union countries, China, Mongolia, Northern and Southern Korea. We envisage integrated studies of agricultural land-use change including assessments of past and future changes, analyses of the drivers of change and of possible solutions involved in increasing agricultural production in Northern Eurasia.