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Inclusive sustainability: an introduction to sustainability and inclusive development reviews

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Abstract:

The topic of sustainability alongside sustainable development continues to attract attention, promoting ecological, social, and economic coexistence. Implicit in this is the idea of leaving no one behind (LNOB), fostering inclusivity. However, a key question is how to ensure inclusive sustainable development. There is also uncertainty about who or what determines what or who is actually included. Additionally, the focus on inclusivity often advances socio-economic agency while neglecting ecological agency. These issues create a gap that this publication, titled "Sustainability and Inclusive Development Reviews (SIDS)," aims to address. The main focus of SIDS is on the interdisciplinary link between inclusivity and sustainability, translating into what can be termed "inclusive sustainability." This first volume features papers from the inaugural Conference of the Forum for Action-Research on Inclusive-Sustainable Development Agenda (FAIDA), i.e., the FAIDA 1 Conference (08 Dec. 2023). The volume highlights the importance of the relationship between culture, agricultural livelihoods, and sustainable development. A common finding among all chapters is the use of multiple methods and mainstreaming endogenous development to address context-specific factors, which are essential for inclusive sustainability. Assessed altogether, the findings still leave gaps. More especially gaps exist in the context of fostering transdisciplinarity and transformatively innovative actions—particularly in integrating academic practice with real-world applications and in including ecological agency, which seems to be overlooked, including in the context of LNOB. Building on this, the volume emphasizes areas for further research, especially on transformative transdisciplinary approaches that are ecologically sensitive, incorporate culture, and promote inclusivity in sustainable and resilient development.

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