

Special Issue Call for Papers: International Journal of Rural Management

Title of the Special Issue:

**Rural Assets, Services, Technolo-
gies, Enterprises, and Sustainable
Development Goals: Exploring
Transforming Pathways**



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Achieving Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) by 2030 is a daunting task. The status report of SDGs 2022 indicates uneven progress across goals and countries. However, the countries have their own pathways to deal with SDGs in the local context, whereas the SDGs are global. Localizing SDGs calls for a push to achieve SDGs by 2030. The term 'rural assets' is local. It encompasses socio-economic assets, digital assets, and rural infrastructure and services. The emergence of industry 4.0/ 5.0 and web 4.0/5.0 has diversified the broad contours of assets, gradually transforming them into digital-interfaced assets. Assets have the potential for soft, autonomic, grid, cloud, fog, and edge computing. Thus, the assets are data-rich, and all the aspects of machine learning (ML), artificial intelligence (AI), and associated analyses ensure maintainability, availability, assurance, and other related decision-making prospects. Effective and productive use of assets needs management principles with an inter-domain managerial interface for a holistic decision. Rural assets need no different treatment. Rural assets need the attention of policymakers to ensure good governance of the rural assets, services, and supporting technologies. Rural enterprises must also govern their assets and services to meet the SDG agenda. The special issue considers the various dimensions of rural assets discussed hereunder to focus on the research output for consideration.

Socio-Economic Assets and SDGs: Evidence suggests that local government and community institutions are better poised to use locally available socio-economic assets effectively to achieve SDGs. Existing community engagement frameworks such as 'solidarity economy' and 'collective actions' are contextually relevant for the SDGs to be successful. Broad contours of rural asset classifications, the rationale, contributions of rural assets, and how rural commons, rural enterprises, rural households, and rural

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governing institutions could enumerate the rural assets and use them for productive purposes. It is essential to find amenable approaches for the policymakers, governing institutions, academia, and practitioners to devise a strategy to ensure rural assets generate the returns and contribute to a benchmark for the rural-urban continuum, rural assets in the social and economic context.

Digital Assets Governance and SDGs: Achievement of SDGs is highly dependent on governments' and communities' ability to augment resources and plan and execute in a sustainable fashion. SDGs alone are not poised to provide unique solutions. The pace and outcomes of the development process should be smart and fast-tracked, requiring digital technologies. These technologies represent a digital asset that rural areas need to cope with in their development to meet the SDGs. Digital technologies can enable the stakeholders and facilitate the pace through which SDGs can be achieved. Digital technology accelerates the pace of development and provides a level-playing field for people from all walks of life. In recent times blockchain technology has been found beneficial in bringing socio-economic gains to people. Therefore, it is essential to understand the role of different stakeholders in promoting the adoption of new technologies and digital asset management in rural areas.

Rural Infrastructure, Services, and SDGs: Infrastructures and services are critical in bridging socio-economic gaps between individuals and communities, which would fulfill several SDGs. However, the stakeholders need to recognize this while planning and implementing. The end outcomes need to be sustainable and resilient. The World Social Report 2021 released by the UN Department of Economic and Social Affairs, underlines the importance of technology as a 'fundamental driver' of development and defines productivity in terms of sustainability. Rural infrastructure and services influence human development indicators, including poverty, directly. Hence these assets are needed to be managed in a fashion that help people make use of them, mobilizing resources and catalyzing their skills for the individual and public good.

This special issue aims to promote dialogue and discussion by exploring the contribution of rural assets in achieving SDGs in general and promoting community development, social justice, and poverty alleviation. The SI explores mechanisms and pathways rural assets can use to achieve SDGs. Evidence-based research, exploratory research, development of the theoretical framework with extant literature reviews, and recommending future directions to the theme are welcome. The SI theme encourages submissions with practical and policy relevance, and expects to bring relevant learning for practitioners and recommendations for policymakers. The submissions are invited on the following, but not limited to:

- Conceptualization of managing rural assets across different contexts and shreds of evidence, policies and regulations
- Social assets and solidarity economy leading to social cohesion, knowledge generation, co-governance, measuring monetary and non-monetary outcomes of managing rural assets
- Using geospatial data and technologies to build indicators for rural SDGs monitoring,
- Educating and engaging citizens and local communities in rural SDG strategies,
- Spatial and non-spatial technologies for rural asset management areas for SDGs
- Smart cities, smart regions, and smart local communities for supporting SDGs
- Industry 4.0, web 4.0 services; ML, AI, and related soft computing tools for managing rural assets, services for SDGs
- Digital infrastructure and services for rural enterprises to support SDGs
- Socio-economic planning and use of rural infrastructure and services

Submissions Process:

Primarily, full papers submitted to the ICMIAM2022 shall be considered for further review to be accepted for publication in the special issue of the Journal. But this process is not limited to ICMIAM2022. Authors who did not submit to ICMIAM2022 are invited to submit their original work.

Please follow the instructions of the Journal while preparing your manuscript. A guide for authors can be found at <https://journals.sagepub.com/author-instructions/IRM> Please submit your manuscript through the Journal's homepage at <https://peerreview.sagepub.com/ijrm>

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