

Call for Chapters

For the edited volume:

Innovation and New Technologies in Agrifood Value Chains under Pressure

Edited by Sonja zu Jeddeloh, Amelie Bernzen, Mirka Erler, Victoria Luxen and Peter Dannenberg

Within the Springer Book series Economic Geography <https://link.springer.com/series/15653>

Agrifood value chains around the world are increasingly facing environmental, geopolitical, and economic pressures and uncertainties. At the same time, a wide range of new innovations and technologies is transforming these value chains. These include e.g., digital technologies, such as artificial intelligence or digital platforms, traceability systems, or data-driven decision-making tools. But also biological, mechanical, and organizational innovations are constantly developed and implemented, ranging from biofortification and novel breeding approaches to new processing technologies and coordination mechanisms.

This edited volume explores how innovations and new technologies are reshaping agrifood value chains and production networks across different world regions. We are particularly interested in how innovations and technologies influence sustainability and understandings of it, as well as risk and resilience, governance structures, power relations, labor conditions, market access, value creation, and territorial development within agrifood systems. The volume welcomes both critical and solution-oriented perspectives and aims to bring together diverse conceptual, empirical, and methodological approaches.

The book is primarily situated within Economic Geography and related debates on Global Value Chains (GVCs), Global Production Networks (GPNs), innovation, sustainability transitions, and socio-technical change. At the same time, contributions from neighboring disciplines and debates are highly welcome to provide a diversity of perspectives on the theme.

We invite conceptual, empirical, and policy-oriented chapters with a focus on technological, digital, organizational, biological, or mechanical innovations, or on their intersections, addressing topics including but not limited to:

- Technological change and innovation in agrifood value chains and production networks
- Digital agriculture, artificial intelligence, robotics, automation, and platform economies
- Biological, nutritional, and processing innovations
- Technologies and sustainability, resilience and adaptation under conditions of multiple crises and in the light of risk perception
- Governance, regulation, and institutions shaping technological change
- Corporate strategies, lead firms and the role of technology providers
- Power relations, inclusion and exclusion, and uneven access to technologies
- Labor, skills, knowledge and changing working conditions in agrifood value chains
- Data, ownership, traceability, and transparency across value chains
- Regional development, territorial disparities, and innovation ecosystems
- Food security, nutrition, and public health implications of technological change
- The role of states, development agencies, NGOs, and international organizations
- Comparative and cross-regional perspectives on technological transformations

We welcome contributions from all world regions and across all stages of agrifood value chains, including input provision, primary production, processing, logistics, retail, food services, and consumption.

Indicative Timeline

- Submission of abstracts: 15 October 2026
- Invitation of full chapters: 30 October 2026/27
- Submission of full chapters: 30 April 2027
- Review and revision process: Summer 2027
- Planned publication: 2027/early 2028

Submission

Please submit an abstract of approximately 300–500 words, including author affiliation(s) and contact details. To sonja.zu-jeddeloh@uni-vechta.de