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Introduction

Welcome to the first Special Issue in the life of the International Journal of Agricultural Management, containing six papers originally given at the 35th conference of the Commission Internationale de l'Organisation Scientifique du Travail en Agriculture, or CIOSTA. Since then the papers have been through a rigorous peer-reviewing process, and I am grateful to the Guest Editors, Dionysis D. Bochtis, Thiago Libório Romanelli and Dimitrios Aidonis for their efforts in organising the process and providing me with a clear quality audit trail.

In addition, this issue contains two excellent reviews of books concerned with realising the potential – often underestimated – of women in agriculture and rural business.

Having established the Journal, and seen it through three and a half volumes, I feel it is time for me to relinquish the Editor's chair to someone who will bring new vigour and a fresh eye to the job. I am delighted that, after a rigorous selection process involving some excellent candidates, the Institute of Agricultural Management and the International Farm Management Association have appointed Dr Matt Lobley, of the University of Exeter, United Kingdom, as my successor. I know that he will make an excellent job of it, and will take the Journal to new heights.

My aim has always been to combine intellectual rigour and quality of argument with a welcoming and, for novice authors, nurturing approach. I will not regret the reduction in my workload, but I will miss the contact with the many 'virtual' friends I have made across the world, be they authors, reviewers, typesetters, publishers or association officers. I thank them all, and trust that Matt will enjoy the same commitment and support.

Martyn Warren