Food security and sustainable agri-food systems, responsible governance of natural resources, and human rights are among the key themes of the new millennium. This book addresses the first internationally negotiated instrument bridging these issues: the Declaration on the Rights of Peasants and other people working in rural areas, adopted by the United Nations General Assembly in December 2018. The Declaration calls for a radical paradigm change in the agricultural sector and it aims at giving voice to peasants and rural workers, which are recognized as the drivers for more equitable and resilient food systems. Welcomed by some, opposed by others, the adoption of the Declaration closes a cycle of principles-elaboration and opens a new one of interrogatives on its harmonization with other branches of law and, ultimately, its implementation. The book unfolds the impact of the Declaration in the wider realm of law and policy-making, especially concerning the governance of natural resources and food systems. Voices from outstanding scholars and practitioners are gathered in this book to inform and trigger a further debate on the negotiation process, the innovative and potentially disruptive contents, the relations with other fields of law, and the practical scope of the Declaration. This book is the first comprehensive tool to navigate the Declaration and is designed for researchers and practitioners in the fields of food and agriculture law and policy, sustainability studies, human rights, development and cooperation.


margherita.brunori@unibs.it