Special Issue

Crop Genetic Adaptation to Changing Climate Conditions

Message from the Guest Editor

Dear colleagues, Climate change constitutes a pressing problem for agricultural production: Crop plants will be required to perform under new abiotic and biotic stress conditions. Breeders will need to acquire a better understanding of the crop plant genetic diversity and adaptability present in the cultivated material and its wild progenitors. Research has generated considerable knowledge about the content and nature of genetic diversity present in germplasm. However, genetic assessments have revealed that estimates can be inconsistent with the perception that modern breeding reduces crop genetic diversity: intensive selection programs and narrow range of genetic resources utilized have reduced genetic diversity in almost all crops. This discrepancy can be ascribed to different factors, but it indicates that there is a need for a better understanding of crop genetic diversity and adaptability and utilize the same to mitigate effects of climate change. The special issue dedicated to "Crop genetic adaptation to changing climate conditions" attempts to review this topic and stimulate discussion and ideas for future research.

Guest Editor

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