Special Issue

Harnessing Epigenetic Phenomena for Crop Breeding and Production

Message from the Guest Editors

Managing cultivar-specific interactions with environment remains a major challenge for crop production. Epigenetics generally refers to changes in gene expression not resulting from alterations in the primary DNA sequence, with many fundamental mechanisms identified and characterised in plants. Many crop plants have complex genomes of polyploid origin, a high load of transposons and DNA methylation, and have evolved to co-opt epigenetic processes into various aspects of development, mediating responses to environmental cues. However, progress has been slower in translating insights into practical outcomes for crop breeding and production. Within this issue, we aim to highlight how translational research may contribute to the development of resilient and responsive crop cultivars, including epigenetic interventions that may become integral to crop production and protection. We therefore call for papers that represent the range of current and potential opportunities within this active research field.

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Deadline for manuscript submissions

closed (31 May 2022)

Agronomy

an Open Access Journal by MDPI

Impact Factor 3.4
CiteScore 6.7

mdpi.com/si/86838

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