

Special Issue

Seeds for Future: Conservation and Utilization of Germplasm Resources

Message from the Guest Editors

The recognised dangers of environmental change and the genetic erosion of plant genetic resources have inspired numerous efforts toward conserving plant genetic resources worldwide. Agroecosystems' productivity is determined by seeds, which are crucial to the existence and spread of plants. Plant diversity creates a natural resilience to challenges such as new strains of disease or climate change. Conservation of germplasm, therefore, supports global efforts to ensure future food security through natural and existing plant diversity and the development of new crops for agriculture. Important plant genetic resources include seeds of landraces, wild relatives, wild species and modern cultivars. In addition, biotechnological advances are helping to accurately characterise and conserve rare and endangered species. This Special Issue aims to examine the role of seed conservation and utilisation in terms of quality, seedling establishment, nutrient uptake, drought resistance and resistance to pests and diseases, exploring local germplasm and underutilised crop species.

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