

## Special Issue

# Harnessing Benefits of Legumes for Tropical Farming Systems

### Message from the Guest Editors

Legumes belonging to the Leguminosae family comprise about 800 genera and over 23,000 species. They are the third largest angiosperm family, and are known for diverse morphological, physiological, and ecological adaptations. Legumes are economically important food crops, providing nutritious sources of protein and micronutrients that benefit human health and livelihoods. Legumes are also uniquely important as feed, fodder, and green manure underpinning crop and livestock farming systems. The global legumes market was valued at USD 11.5 billion in 2022 and projected to grow to USD 12.10 billion in 2024 to be USD 18.30 billion by 2032. Legumes are versatile crops, not only for producing protein-rich grains and feed but also for their biological N fixation, solubilizing phosphate using organic acids in root exudates, and their capacity for tolerating various biotic and abiotic stress tolerances underpinning their high productivity in temperate farming systems. The challenge is to translate similar potentials of legumes for the tropics to harness the legume opportunities in tropical farming systems.

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