

Special Issue

Crop Genetic Diversity Trends During Domestication

Message from the Guest Editor

Historically, research into the domestication of crop plants has focused on crops of present-day economic importance, leaving us with little understanding of the full diversity of plant and human interactions that may lead to domestication. At the same time, many plants that are not obviously domesticated may have been incorporated into human life as food sources, ornamentals, or fibre sources and for many other purposes. Agronomy matters because it represents human attempts to create an environment in which plants can thrive, and it requires us to consider how plants have evolved and live in the world today, including their responses to abiotic and biotic conditions. Trends in the gain, loss or maintenance of genetic diversity in a crop species, as well as trends in the types of crop diversity, cannot be understood without basic study of the natural and cultural history of each plant. To perceive trends in genetic diversity, we must use theoretical and empirical approaches to explore what existed before human utilization, dispersal and selection of each plant.

Guest Editor

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