

Special Issue

The Application of Functional Plants in Crop Protection and Biodiversity Management

Message from the Guest Editor

The application of functional plants for crop protection and biodiversity management in cereal and horticultural crops has gained traction recently. Research has accumulated to indicate the benefits of flower and vegetable strips in crops as barriers to herbivore movement, as repellents or trap crops for herbivores, or as refuges for natural enemies of crop pests. This Special Issue will focus on agroecological studies that employ functional plants (banker plants, trap crops, alley crops, and flower strips) to enhance the beneficial ecosystem services provided by crop-associated fauna. The issue will present research that documents the impacts of implementations over multiple cropping seasons or at multiple sites, research that encompasses the effects on broader ecological communities, research that assesses farmers' perceptions toward such implementations, or that includes a cost-benefit analysis of the implementations. Research can focus on any region or crop species (including cereals, grasslands, field and protected horticultural crops or fiber crops). Research conducted on commercial farms or plantations, and that addresses issues of scale is particularly welcome.

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