

Special Issue

Biofortification of Crops

Message from the Guest Editors

Dietary diversification by supplementation or biofortification of staple foods are complementary approaches that can be used in addressing potential micronutrient deficiency. Biofortification, e.g., by breeding of preferred varieties to increase nutrient content, has the advantage that it provides the farmer and consumer with a ready-to-eat product. It can be done by classical breeding; however, a major challenge is that this is a lengthy process based on the recurrent selection of phenotypes. In the future, approaches should therefore consider marker-assisted breeding strategies as well as gene editing to increase the levels of micronutrients. Both these ways require an advanced genetic and molecular understanding of the *in planta* biosynthesis of nutrients. Finally, possible secondary effects such as altered content of “off-target” compounds, effects during post-harvest including long-term storage of produce, as well as the bioavailability of the nutrient in the biofortified crop need to be considered.

Guest Editors

Dr. Erik Alexandersson

Dr. Laura Jaakola

Dr. Massimiliano D'Imperio

Dr. Francesco Di Gioia

Dr. Elizabeth Parkes

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Agronomy
Editorial Office
MDPI, Grosspeteranlage 5
4052 Basel, Switzerland
Tel: +41 61 683 77 34
agronomy@mdpi.com

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Editor-in-Chief

Prof. Dr. Leslie A. Weston

Gulbali Centre for Agriculture, Water and Environment Research,
Charles Sturt University, Wagga Wagga, NSW 2678, Australia

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