Special Issue

Biotic Lines of Defence for Plant Disease Suppression in Soils

Message from the Guest Editor

The diversity of soil organisms drives many processes that contribute to healthy, functioning soils. However, soil-borne diseases, caused by bacteria, fungi, oomycetes, viruses, and nematodes, are major factors limiting production and are often difficult to manage. This Special Issue aims to capture advances in soilborne disease management through specific and general suppression, and through the interactions of plants and microorganisms with soil-borne pathogens. There have been advances in the knowledge of metabolites produced by specific soil organisms to reduce the invasion of plants by pathogens. Furthermore, progress has been made at a sub-cellular level, with an increase in the knowledge that soil organisms have in preparing plant defenses. There is also a growing awareness that soil management practices influence soil organisms and the microbiome, which affect the suppressiveness of soil-borne pathogens and the general health of the soil.

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