

Special Issue

Conservation on The Move: Towards Sustainable Conservation and Use of Crop Wild Relatives

Message from the Guest Editor

Crop wild relatives (CWRs) have been widely used in crop improvement, for example, to enhance disease resistance, improve tolerance to abiotic constraints, or to improve quality. We will need CWRs in the future more than ever as sources for novel traits that will make our crops climate robust and suitable for future food systems while delivering other ecosystem services. The use of CWRs will most likely also become more productive and easier with the further development of novel breeding techniques, provided they are available for such use. At the same time, CWRs are threatened by global change, including changes in current land cover, loss of habitats caused by urbanization, and changing rainfall patterns. There is an urgent need to act for worldwide conservation of what is left of crop wild relatives and their habitats based on a thorough gap analyses. This Special Issue welcomes papers on trends in the dynamics of wild populations, ecological spread, conservation, availability, and use of crop wild relatives.

Guest Editor

Prof. Dr. Paul C. Struik

Department of Plant Sciences, Centre for Crop Systems Analysis,
Wageningen University & Research (WUR), Anna van Saksenlaan 51,
2593 HW Den Haag, The Netherlands

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Editorial Office
MDPI, Grosspeteranlage 5
4052 Basel, Switzerland
Tel: +41 61 683 77 34
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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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