

Special Issue

Millet and Pseudocereals: New Insights into Archaeobotany, Plant Domestication and Global Foodways

Message from the Guest Editors

Over the last two decades, plant sciences, and archaeobotanical investigations into a group of small-grained crops, around 40 taxa originating from several continents and collectively known as Millet, have transformed our understanding of ancient cropping systems and human foodways. Here, we view Millet in its broadest taxonomic definition—small-grained cereals—including what is commonly known as Asian, Indian, African millet, and pseudocereals, such as quinoa and buckwheat. There has been a lot of recent momentum which has moved Millet from a poorly understood peripheral resource (and therefore less investigated scientifically compared to their large-grained counterparts, e.g., wheat, rice, and maize) to a well-charted core feature of plant domestication and its early globalization. This Special Issue celebrates the flourish of this recent research trend, with focuses on domestication, environmental adaptation, culinary practices, biogeography, and cultural significances of millet and pseudocereals.

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