Special Issue

Research on Genetic Diversity and Conservation of Horticultural Crops

Message from the Guest Editors

Research on the genetic diversity and conservation of horticultural crops is of great significance as horticultural crops, including fruits, vegetables, and ornamental plants, display a wideranging genetic variability. This diversity is essential for breeding programs developing new varieties with improved traits such as disease resistance, higher yield, and better quality; however, modern agricultural practices, habitat loss, and climate change pose significant threats to this genetic wealth.

Scientists use various techniques to assess the genetic diversity within and among horticultural crop populations, and conservation efforts focus on both in-situ methods, such as protecting natural habitats where these crops originated, and ex-situ methods, including gene banks and tissue culture collections. By understanding and conserving the genetic diversity of horticultural crops, we can ensure food security, maintain ecological balance, and preserve important plant resources.

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As the world of science becomes ever more specialized, researchers may lose themselves in the deep forest of the ever increasing number of subfields being created. This open access journal *Applied Sciences* has been started to link these subfields, so researchers can cut through the forest and see the surrounding, or quite distant fields and subfields to help develop his/her own research even further with the aid of this multi-dimensional network.

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