Special Issue

Genetic Control of Agronomic Traits in Plants

Message from the Guest Editor

One of the most important challenges facing current and future generations is how climate change and continuous population growth adversely affect food security. To address this, the food system needs a complete transformation. In the last century, the use of high-yielding F1-hybrid varieties, mechanization, and irrigation has insured yield improvement for major crops. In the post-genomic era, one would expect that the discovery and the optimization of the gene networks controlling key agronomic traits could contribute to another level of yield improvement. An ideal future crop should include characteristics such as a rapid life cycle to improve the productivity per year, a short stature to fit in space-limited growing areas, an efficient nutrition system to lower chemical inputs, and an optimized flowering and fruit set to ensure high fruit yield. In this Special Issue, we would like to highlight research projects developing (i) phenotyping tools to identify genetic loci controlling key agronomic traits; (ii) genetic and omics characterization of key agronomic traits; and (iii) identification of leader alleles improving crop performance.

Guest Editor

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Genes is central to our understanding of biology, and modern advances such as genomics and genome editing have maintained genetics as a vibrant, diverse and fast-moving field. There is a need for good quality, open access journals in this area, and the *Genes* team aims to provide expert manuscript handling, serious peer review, and rapid publication across the whole discipline of genetics. Starting in 2010, the journal is now well established and recognised. Why not consider *Genes* for your next genetics paper?

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