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Wild Halophytes: Tools for Understanding Salt Tolerance Mechanisms of Plants and for Adapting Agriculture to Climate Change II

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Message from the Guest Editors

All our major crops and most plant wild species are glycophytes, sensitive to relatively low salt levels in the soil. On the contrary, a relatively small group of plants—the halophytes—are adapted to natural saline environments and can survive and complete their life cycle in habitats with soil salinity equivalent to 200 mM NaCl, although some can withstand salinities even higher than that of seawater. These saline habitats are fascinating from an ecological perspective, but also very much threatened by human activities and extremely sensitive to climate change effects.

We are proud to launch this Special Issue's second edition, which will again cover all biological and biotechnological aspects of halophytes research mentioned above, reflected in original research papers, reviews, minireviews or opinion papers. Those topics or experimental strategies not addressed or underrepresented in the first edition will be especially welcome: halophyte ecophysiology, investigation of stress-tolerance mechanisms using molecular biology or 'omics' approaches, and agronomic assessments of halophytes as 'new' crops for saline agriculture.

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Message from the Editor-in-Chief

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