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## Better Oats: Unlocking the Potential of Genetic Diversity

Guest Editors:

**Dr. Gracia Montilla-Bascon**

Institute for Sustainable  
Agriculture-Spanish National  
Research Council (IAS-CSIC),  
14005 Cordoba, Spain

**Dr. Julio Isidro Sánchez**

Centre for Plant Biotechnology  
and Genomics (CBGP, UPM-INIA),  
Technical University of Madrid  
(UPM), Campus de  
Montegancedo-UPM, 28223  
Pozuelo de Alarcón, Madrid,  
Spain

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### Message from the Guest Editors

Traditionally, oat has been primarily produced as a multipurpose crop for grain, pasture, and forage, or as a rotation crop in many parts of the world. However, in recent years the interest in oat's potential benefits in nutrition and health has increased significantly, due in part to its superior and unique combinations of biocompounds.

Oat crop is affected by many biotic and abiotic stresses that influence its growth and development, preventing it from reaching its full genetic potential and performance. In addition, the current climate change scenario is causing irregular and unusual yield instability and production losses. Plant responses to these biotic and abiotic stresses involve complex interactions among the genes, proteins, and metabolites that contribute to plant phenotype plasticity. A holistic interpretation of the mechanisms leading to the resistance/tolerance of oats to their biotic and abiotic constraints is necessary, as is going deeper into the molecular responses. This knowledge will help to develop next-generation oat breeding tools, including physiological, biochemical, genomic, and genetic approaches for a more sustainable oat crop.



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# Special Issue



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### **Prof. Dr. Dilantha Fernando**

Department of Plant Science,  
University of Manitoba, Winnipeg,  
MB R3T 2N2, Canada

## Message from the Editor-in-Chief

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*Plants* Editorial Office  
MDPI, Grosspeteranlage 5  
4052 Basel, Switzerland

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