

Special Issue

Conserving and Utilizing the Genetic Resources of Crop Wild Relatives

Message from the Guest Editors

The potential of using the genetic diversity of Crop Wild Relatives (CWR) to impart new desirable traits to agricultural crops is now well recognised. Underpinning this importance is their broad genetic base and their continued adaptation to the habitats in which they occur and have evolved, making them invaluable resources. Thus, the identification of CWRs, as well as the knowledge of their genetic potential with respect to breeding use and their conservation, is fundamental to guarantee the effective use of these genetic resources in crop improvement. Despite the enormous developments in recent years, there are many areas where knowledge needs to be improved, especially taking into account the need for crops to be more resilient in the face of expected climate change. The need to ensure complete knowledge of CWRs, of both annual and permanent crops, at regional and global levels, and the need to ensure in situ and ex situ conservation that safeguards both genetic and species-level diversity, are just some of the topics requiring development. This Special Issue focuses on contributions that can improve knowledge, increase valuation, and ensure the conservation of CWRs.

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Plants is an open access journal which provides an advanced forum for research findings in areas related to plant function, its physiology, biology, taxonomy, stresses, and its interactions with other organisms. It publishes original research articles, reviews, reports, and conference proceedings (peer reviewed full articles) and communications. In original research papers, it is important that full experimental details are provided. We also encourage timely reviews and commentaries on topics of interest to the plant research community.

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