Special Issue

Plant Genetic Resources and Their Use in Cotton Improvement

Message from the Guest Editors

Plant genetic resources are a critical part of crop improvement programs. They provide important sources of biotic and abiotic stress tolerance or resistance, enhanced crop quality, increased genetic diversity, and other traits important to crop production. The plant genetic resources available for cotton (*Gossypium* spp.) improvement are extensive and consist of greater than 50 species. Globally, the majority of cotton production comes from the cultivation of two primary species, *G. hirsutum* L. (upland) and *G. barbadense* L. (pima), which account for nearly 35 million hectares of production area that will produce a farmgate value of $35 billion USD. Although the primary use of cotton is for its spinnable fiber that is used to manufacture textile products, other crop constituents such as the seed and its byproducts are used in a number of food chain applications as sources of oil and protein for human and animal consumption. The available cotton plant genetic resources provide a readily available source of genetic diversity for long term cotton improvement.

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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, 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.

Editor-in-Chief

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