

Special Issue

Traditional and Local Crop Varieties for Sustainable Cultivation and Climate-Resilient Food Production

Message from the Guest Editors

Traditional and locally adapted crop varieties represent invaluable reservoirs of genetic diversity that are essential for building sustainable and climate-resilient agri-food systems. Over generations, these varieties have been naturally and culturally selected under diverse agroecological conditions, developing adaptive traits that enable them to thrive with minimal input, as well as with resistances to environmental stresses such as drought, pests, and temperature extremes. However, modern agricultural intensification and market homogenization have led to the replacement of traditional crops by a limited number of high-yielding varieties, contributing to genetic erosion and ecosystem vulnerability. Revitalizing the use of traditional crops and integrating them into modern, sustainable cultivation systems is, therefore, critical for ensuring food security, preserving biodiversity, and supporting rural economies in the face of climate change. This Special Issue aims to collect interdisciplinary research and review papers that explore the functional role of traditional and local crop varieties in building sustainable agri-food value chains and climate-resilient food systems.

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Deadline for manuscript submissions

30 June 2026



Sustainability

an Open Access Journal
by MDPI

Impact Factor 3.3
CiteScore 7.7



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Editor-in-Chief

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