

Special Issue

Molecular Genetics and Functional Genomics for the Breeding of Cereal Crops

Message from the Guest Editors

With the development of genome sequencing and gene-editing technologies, the genetic improvement of cereal crops has been greatly accelerated in the past ten years. Especially, efficient genetic transformation systems have been established in maize, indica rice and wheat by using plant-regeneration-related genes (WUS2, BBM and GRF-GIF) or modifying culture and selection regimes (PureWheat). Model genotypes of rice and millet with dwarfing plant heights, short growth periods, and high transformation efficiency have been created for genetic study. Many important germplasms or mutants have been developed, and many genes of interest have been dissected for functional regulation in cereal crops by applying transgenic and CRISPR/Cas9 techniques. Additionally, more convenient molecular markers have been designed and employed in the breeding of cereal crops. On the whole, optimal progress has been achieved in cereal crops regarding molecular genetics, functional genomics, transformation, gene editing, and marker-assisted selective breeding. It is necessary to organize a Special Issue to report some novel results and opinions related to the aspects aforementioned in cereal crops.

Guest Editors

Prof. Dr. Xingguo Ye

Institute of Crop Sciences, Chinese Academy of Agricultural Sciences, Beijing 100081, China

Dr. Ke Wang

Institute of Crop Sciences, Chinese Academy of Agricultural Sciences, Beijing 100081, China

Deadline for manuscript submissions

closed (30 June 2023)



Agriculture

an Open Access Journal
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Impact Factor 3.3
CiteScore 4.9



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4052 Basel, Switzerland
Tel: +41 61 683 77 34
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Agriculture (ISSN 2077-0472) is an international, crossdisciplinary and scholarly open access journal on the science and technology of crop and animal production, and management of the natural resource base for agricultural production. *Agriculture* is published in an open access format – research articles, reviews and other contents are released on the internet immediately after acceptance. The scientific community and the public have unlimited and free access to the content as soon as it is published.

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Prof. Dr. Les Copeland
Sydney Institute of Agriculture, School of Life and Environmental
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