

Special Issue

Understanding and Improving Crop Productivity under Current Climate Change Scenario

Message from the Guest Editors

Lodging can be defined as the permanent displacement of plant stems from their vertical position. Lodging is a persistent problem in agriculture, which has been identified as one of the factors responsible for the lack of improvement in farm yields. Lodging has been shown to reduce the yield of numerous crops, such as oilseed rape, wheat, rice, maize etc., by 30–80%, or sometimes completely failure of crop performance. Yield losses due to lodging are related to restricted assimilate supply and poor seed fill at maturation and to pod shatter prior to and during harvest. Nonetheless, the extent of yield losses depends on the growth stage at which lodging occurs and its severity, with generally greater yield losses from earlier lodging. Lodging compresses the canopy, reducing the transmission of radiation, which concomitantly reduces overall crop photosynthesis and light use efficiency. Lodging is an evitable problem, and it can be considered an abiotic stress.

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