

Special Issue

Crop Mineral Nutrition: Old and Emerging Challenges and Opportunities

Message from the Guest Editors

Crop nutrient use efficiency (NUE) is a complex trait that depends not only on the ability of the plants to take up nutrients from the soil but also on their capacity to use nutrients to promote yield. Improvement of our knowledge on crop NUE will also be brought about by a better understanding of root physiological responses to different soil conditions, with particular regard to the effects of nutrient availability on root architecture and root–microbe interactions inside the soil. Alternative strategies to improve crop NUE are based on the development of precision fertilization techniques that specifically require both the real-time and remote monitoring of crop nutritional status. In this regard, the use of satellite-driven images, as well as of plant bioindicators, will provide novel opportunities to develop site-specific fertilization techniques matching nutrient supply with crop requirements and simultaneously minimizing nutrient losses from the fields. This Special Issue aims at highlighting novel perspectives in crop mineral nutrition. Contributions are invited from scientists working at the molecular, genetic, physiological, agronomic, and ecological levels.

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