

Special Issue

Seed Dormancy and Germination as Key for Crop Establishment and Food Production

Message from the Guest Editors

Timing of seed germination is one of the key steps in plant life. It determines when plants enter natural or agricultural ecosystems and is the basis for crop production. Dormancy and germination traits are controlled in a highly complex manner. Seed dormancy is also one of the key traits altered during domestication process, since it is of crucial importance for crop establishment. Soil seed banks spanning over several generations are ubiquitous characteristics to many species encompassing seed dormancy in plants.

Advances in the study of seed dormancy and germination currently focus on mechanistic biology mediated by either the genome or epigenome and the relationship with the environmental conditions. Seed traits related to germination timing with suitable conditions remain largely unexplored, in spite of having a central role to improve our understanding of plant evolution and ecosystem functioning. This Special Issue aims to provide up-to-date information on various aspects of seed dormancy and germination, both from theoretical and practical perspectives, from biology and genetics to agronomical aspects.

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