

Special Issue

Iron and Sulfur in Plants

Message from the Guest Editors

In recent years, environmental policies have led to the reduction of S-rich industrial emissions and, consequently, free S deposition to the soil. Thus, soils are progressively becoming S depleted, and the situation is worsening because the increased crop yields and production are using soil S reserves at greater rates. Although the uptake and assimilation pathway of S is well characterized, there are many unresolved questions concerning the regulation of its metabolism in response to both its availability in the environment and the demand of plants for it under certain environmental conditions. Recently, a significant interaction between S and Fe was observed, in which a deficiency in one of the two nutrients induces physiological modifications, allowing the adequate and balanced assimilation of the other. However, the comprehension of the mechanisms underlying the responses to this combined deficiency are still mostly lacking, even though some theories have been postulated. Therefore, Fe–S interplay should be exploited from both a scientific and an applicative point of view to provide both new knowledge and sustainable agricultural strategies.

Guest Editors

Dr. Stefania Astolfi

Department of Agricultural and Forest Sciences (DAFNE), University of Tuscia, Via S. C. de Lellis, 01100 Viterbo, Italy

Dr. Silvia Celletti

Department of Life Sciences, University of Siena, 53100 Siena, Italy

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4052 Basel, Switzerland
Tel: +41 61 683 77 34
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Prof. Dr. Maurizio Battino

Department of Odontostomatologic and Specialized Clinical Sciences,
Sez-Biochimica, Faculty of Medicine, Università Politecnica delle
Marche, Via Ranieri 65, 60100 Ancona, Italy

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