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Developments in the Genetics and Breeding of Banana Species

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Deadline for manuscript submissions:
closed (20 May 2025)

Message from the Guest Editors

Banana breeding aims to develop improved cultivars with resistance to major pathogens and pests, while maintaining agronomic performance and fruit quality; this may contribute to the sustainability of their production, by reducing the negative environmental impacts of industrial plantations. However, banana breeding is particularly complex, since cultivars need to be sterile to produce seedless edible fruits. The genome complexity of banana cultivars (interspecificity, polyploidy and high levels of genetic and structural heterozygosity), and the lack of knowledge on the genetics of the targeted traits, are further challenges posed to banana crossbreeding.

This Special Issue on “Developments in the Genetics and Breeding of Banana Species” will thus focus on scientific and technical advances in the field of banana’s conventional breeding, genetics and genomics; this will facilitate and accelerate the development of cultivars that meet the expectations of the markets, both today and in the future.

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Message from the Editor-in-Chief

Horticultural plants and their products provide sustenance, health, and beauty. A confluence of factors is putting increasing pressure on horticultural production to evolve, and innovative research is addressing these challenges. *Horticulturae* provides a venue to communicate research results in a rapid manner with open access, allowing everyone the opportunity to stay abreast of leading research addressing horticulture. I invite you to consider publishing the results of your research in this high quality, peer-reviewed journal.

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