



## Crop Plants and Biotic Stress

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Deadline for manuscript  
submissions:

**closed (31 December 2022)**

### Message from the Guest Editors

Universal, 25 to 35% of crop yield is lost each year because of pests and pathogens, requiring a 30 billion USD per year agrochemical industry. Disease control using agrochemicals increases energy consumption, environmental pollution, and the cost of production. Plant breeders count on genetic variation for disease resistance in their selection of superior crop varieties.

A detail understanding of interactions between plants and viruses, bacteria, oomycetes, fungi, nematodes, and insects provide sustainable solutions for the control of crop diseases and the increasing demand for food supply worldwide.

Plants defend themselves against pathogens and pests through constitutive and inducible defenses, and other response mechanisms, while pests and pathogens in turn have evolved adaptations to defeat these mechanisms. Diverse molecular processes regulate the interactions between plants and other biotic organisms, and consequent compensatory processes in the plants. Examining the molecular mechanisms by which crop plants defend themselves from attack by pathogens and pests is crucial for the control of crop diseases.





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## Message from the Editor-in-Chief

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