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Function of Non-coding RNA in Plants

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Message from the Guest Editors

The discovery and study of non-coding RNA genetic elements is an emerging field in plants. They can show a constitutive expression, such as tRNA and rRNA, or play a regulatory role in the cell. Noncoding RNAs playing a regulatory role are divided into small non-coding RNA (e.g., miRNA, siRNA and piRNA) and long non-coding RNA. Long non-coding RNA genes can be located within introns, intergenic regions as well as in the antisense DNA strand. It had been found that they can regulate flowering, root and leaf development, cuticle biosynthesis, cell wall synthesis, seed germination, response to biotic and abiotic stress, fruit development and ripening, and potentially fruit shelf life. Although most of the physiological roles mentioned had been found in plant vegetative tissue, it is known that the knowledge developed studying plant tissues usually is found to be similar in fruits tissues. In this Special Issue, the experimental evidence generated to determine the role of these genetic elements in fruit physiology, biochemistry and molecular biology is presented.

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Message from the Editor-in-Chief

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