

Special Issue

Advances in Intercropping

Message from the Guest Editors

An increasing population and decrease in cultivated land threatens food security, and this problem is not being addressed by monoculture systems. Our world is struggling to optimize new planting practices/strategies to improve crop production that use fewer inputs, especially nutrients and water, to satisfy the current and future needs for food, feed, and fiber, while reducing negative environmental impacts. Additionally, this challenge of finding new and sustainable ways to intensify agriculture has been magnified in countries/regions that have a higher population and less arable land for agriculture production. Intercropping is the practice of growing two or more crops in proximity and has been practiced since early in the evolution of agriculture. However, to ensure food security, intercropping based on advanced scientific knowledge has rapidly evolved over the past few decades. Companion crop competition and compatibility are important factors in intercropping that may vary with the type of companion crops, plant morphology and physiology, soil texture and fertility, and the overall environment of the region.

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Plants is an open access journal which provides an advanced forum for research findings in areas related to plant function, its physiology, biology, taxonomy, stresses, and its interactions with other organisms. It publishes original research articles, reviews, reports, and conference proceedings (peer reviewed full articles) and communications. In original research papers, it is important that full experimental details are provided. We also encourage timely reviews and commentaries on topics of interest to the plant research community.

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