



toxins



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Mycotoxins in Relation to Climate Change

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Message from the Guest Editor

The Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change has concluded that recent changes in global climate systems have increased atmospheric temperatures, which is associated with increased growth of toxigenic fungi in crops. Future rise in global temperatures (2–5 °C) and further increase in CO₂ levels (from 350–400 to 650–1200 ppm) will have a significant impact both on plant growth and mycotoxin-producing fungi. There is an increased risk for mycotoxin contamination of maize, wheat, and other small grain species, and in a changing climate, mycotoxins will contaminate new crops and new geographical areas. Predictive modeling will be helpful to identify regions where the maximum temperature impact may occur. Acclimatization of toxigenic fungi to climate change will probably be more rapid than the development of crop plant varieties for a changing climate. The development of models for regional prediction of infection by mycotoxin-producing fungi and contamination of staple crops is an important measure in global efforts to reduce the risks for mycotoxin contamination of human food and feed for domestic animals.



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Special Issue



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