

Diverse mechanisms of plant adaptation to abiotic or biotic stress

Guest Editor

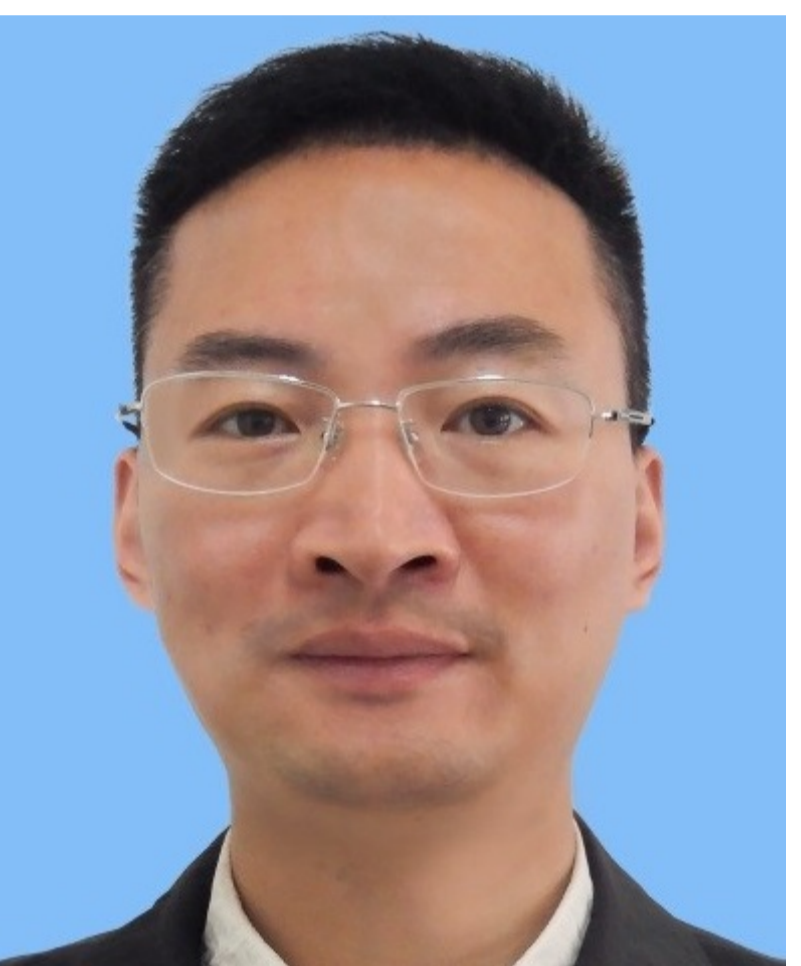


Prof. Dr. Jianfei Wang

jfwang1@aliyun.com

Anhui University of Science and Technology Pakistan, P.R. China

Expertise: Plant Stress Adaptation to Environmental Stresses



Dr. Cheng Zhou

zhoucheng@njau.edu.cn

Nanjing Agricultural University, P.R. China

Expertise: Microbe-Plant Interaction

Message from the Guest Editor

Dear Colleagues,

Unlike animals, plants cannot escape from deleterious environmental factors, such as pathogenic microbes, insect pests, nutrient deficiency, extreme temperatures, salinity and drought. To survive, plants have evolved diverse strategies to counteract unfavorable conditions at molecular, physiological and biochemical levels. Recently, combination of abiotic and biotic stress has been shown to increase plant performance by enhancing the resistance to biotic stress. Signaling crosstalk between abiotic and biotic stress responses may be synergistic and/or antagonistic, involving phytohormones, transcription factors and reactive oxygen species. Importantly, mounting evidence has also indicated that interactions between plants and microbes play a key role in helping plants develop resilience and tolerate adverse effects imposed by abiotic or biotic stresses. Plant–microbe interactions include diverse associations from pathogenic to commensal and mutualistic coexistences. The exploration of these issues will help not only understand stress adaptive mechanisms in plants, but also develop more effective crop protection strategies and sustainable agricultural systems. This special issue aims at addressing recent advances and challenges in plant adaptation to changing environments as well as plant–microbe interactions.

Prof. Dr. Jianfei Wang and Dr. Cheng Zhou

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