



## Fungal Disease Management and Mycotoxin Prevention in Cereals

Guest Editors:

**Prof. Dr. Carla Ceoloni**

Department of Agricultural and  
Forest Sciences (DAFNE),  
University of Tuscia, 01100  
Viterbo, Italy

**Dr. Silvio Tundo**

Department of Land,  
Environment, Agriculture and  
Forest (TeSAF), University of  
Padua, 35121 Padua, Italy

**Dr. Ljiljana Kuzmanović**

Department of Agricultural and  
Forest Sciences (DAFNE),  
University of Tuscia, 01100  
Viterbo, Italy

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### Message from the Guest Editors

Dear Colleagues,

Fungal diseases of grain cereals, including primarily wheat, maize, rice, and barley, cause worldwide substantial reduction of grain yield and quality, which negatively affects the harvest, storage, and subsequent marketability of the products. A further threat is represented by mycotoxins, produced by some widespread pathogens (e.g., *Fusarium* spp.), which determine a variety of adverse effects (from acute poisoning to long-term effects such as immune deficiency and cancer) to both human and livestock health. Regulations on maximum mycotoxins levels have been established worldwide to protect consumers from their harmful effects, and the public concern on food safety extends to excessive and inappropriate use of pesticides, whose residues are likewise dangerous for consumers, as well as the environment.

An increasing and more demanding world population, coupled with environmental issues, including climate changes, altogether pose as an essential goal the search for new and sustainable strategies to mitigate the many negative impacts of widespread fungal diseases on cereal crops.





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### **Prof. Dr. Peter Langridge**

School of Agriculture, Food and  
Wine, University of Adelaide,  
Urrbrae, SA 5064, Australia

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*Agronomy* Editorial Office  
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