



International Journal of
Molecular Sciences

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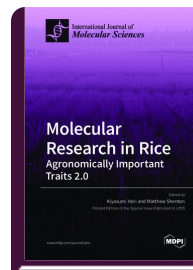
Special Issue Reprint

Molecular Research in Rice: Agronomically Important Traits 2.0

www.mdpi.com/books/reprint/6479

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ISBN 978-3-0365-4943-9 (Hardback)
ISBN 978-3-0365-4944-6 (PDF)



This volume presents recent research achievements concerning the molecular genetic basis of agronomic traits in rice. Rice (*Oryza sativa* L.) is the most important food crop in the world, being a staple food for more than half of the world's population. Recent improvements in living standards have increased the worldwide demand for high-yielding and high-quality rice cultivars. To develop novel cultivars with superior agronomic performance, we need to understand the molecular basis of agronomically important traits related to grain yield, grain quality, disease resistance, and abiotic stress tolerance. Decoding the whole rice genome sequence revealed that, while there are more than 37,000 genes in the ~400 Mbp rice genome, there are only about 3000 genes whose molecular functions are characterized in detail. We collected in this volume the continued research efforts of scholars that elucidate genetic networks and the molecular mechanisms controlling agronomically important traits in rice.



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