



BOOK OF ABSTRACTS

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Biofortification of pea

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Pulse crop seeds are rich in protein, slowly digestible starch, soluble and insoluble fiber, and are low in fat making them nutritionally outstanding foods. In comparison to cereal grains, pulses are also generally rich in micronutrients such as iron and zinc. Enhancing the concentration of micronutrients through plant breeding is called biofortification. We are exploring biofortification of pea by evaluating natural variation in micronutrient concentration in diverse germplasm, determining genetic control of micronutrient concentration in recombinant inbred lines, and developing germplasm low in phytate, a natural chelator of iron. Research progress will be summarized. Biofortification could further enhance the nutritional value of pulse crops in international food markets.

