

A REVIEW ON AVAILABILITY, UTILIZATION AND FUTURE OF EGG PLANT GENETIC RESOURCES IN INDIA

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Abstract: Egg plant is one of the most important indigenous vegetable crops of India, cultivated in the tropical and subtropical regions of the world. The global production of the crop has been seriously affected by various biotic and abiotic stresses and development of pest and disease resistance is a major challenge in brinjal breeding. Many wild species of the genus *Solanum* are available in the country, which have not been efficiently utilized in breeding programs. The present review attempted to gather information on the genetic resources of egg plant available, their distribution, sources of resistance to various pests, diseases and abiotic stresses and opportunities in their utilization for crop improvement programs using conventional and biotechnological interventions.

Keywords: *Solanum*, Genetic resource, Stress, Utilization

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