

Biofortification in cereals: Progress and Prospects

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Abstract

Food security of the country has been ensured by the efforts of the green revolution with the enhancement of cereal production. However, recent surveys showed 35.8% of children suffer from malnutrition in India. Indian Council of Agricultural Research has taken lead for the biofortification of cereal crops based on the earlier national and international research efforts, targeting for the enhancement of nutrients in staple food crops. In this article, the significant progress made in rice, wheat, maize and millets for the identification of genotypes, development, evaluation and release of the varieties with high nutrient contents and their bioavailability studies have been discussed.

Key words: Biofortification, nutrients, breeding, varieties, bioavailability.