Awning: An Unsung Trait in Rice (Oryza Sativa L.)

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Abstract : The fast-changing global trend and declining forest region have impacted agricultural lands; animals, especially birds, might become one of the major pests in the near future and go neglected or unreported in many kinds of literature and events, which is mainly because of bird infestation being a pocket-zone problem. This bird infestation can be attributed to the balding of the forest region and the decline in their foraging hotspot due to anthropogenic activity. There are many ways to keep away the birds from agricultural fields, both conventional and non-conventional. But the question here is whether the traditional approach of bird scarring methods such as scare-crows are effective enough. There are many traits in rice that are supposed to keep the birds away from foraging in paddy fields, and the selection of such traits might be rewarding, such as the angle of the flag leaf from the stem, grain size, novelty of any trait in that particular region and also an awning. Awning, as such, is a very particular trait on which negative selection was imposed to such an extent that there has been a decline in the nucleotide responsible for the said trait. Thus, in this particular session, histology, genetics, genes behind the trait and how awns might be one of the solutions to the problem stated above will be discussed in detail.

Keywords : bird infestation, awning, negative selection, domestication
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