Introduction

Sugarcane Production & Breeding background

As one of the global main crops, the sugarcane provided about 1.9 million tons yield in 2019, and accounted for approximate 79% of total global sugar production in the same year (Service, 2021). However, due to the complex genome structure, the breeding outcomes in sugarcane including the rate of selection cycle decrease and genetic gain in the past 20 years were slow. The typical breeding cycle of sugarcane by clonal selections which rely on the end-of-season yields is 12-14 years (Wei and Jackson, 2017). In Australia, the average progress in sugarcane breeding was 190 kg

Sugar/ha/year in the past 30 years, about 1%.

There are several challenges during the sugarcane breeding. First, the constraints between conventional breeding methods and low heritability in early-stage sugarcane yield, and causes low correlation within strands.

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Wei, X., and Jackson, P. (2017). Addressing slow rates of long-term genetic gain in sugarcane. Pakistan Sugar Journal *32*, 23.