Plant Biotechnology and Agriculture

Description: As the oldest and largest human intervention in nature, the science of agriculture is one of the most intensely studied practices. From manipulation of plant gene structure to the use of plants for bioenergy, biotechnology interventions in plant and agricultural science have been rapidly developing over the past ten years with immense forward leaps on an annual basis.

This book begins by laying the foundations for plant biotechnology by outlining the biological aspects including gene structure and expression, and the basic procedures in plant biotechnology of genomics, metabolomics, transcriptomics and proteomics. It then focuses on a discussion of the impacts of biotechnology on plant breeding technologies and germplasm sustainability. The role of biotechnology in the improvement of agricultural traits, production of industrial products and pharmaceuticals as well as biomaterials and biomass provide a historical perspective and a look to the future. Sections addressing intellectual property rights and sociological and food safety issues round out the holistic discussion of this important topic.

- Includes specific emphasis on the inter-relationships between basic plant biotechnologies and applied agricultural applications, and the way they contribute to each other
- Provides an updated review of the major plant biotechnology procedures and techniques, their impact on novel agricultural development and crop plant improvement
- Takes a broad view of the topic with discussions of practices in many countries

Contents:

Preface

Introduction: The scope of plant biotechnology and its impact on agriculture
Introduction to basic procedures in plant biotechnology
Breeding biotechnologies
Plant germplasm
Controlling plant response to the environment: Abiotic stress
Controlling plant response to the environment: Biotic stress
Biotechnological improvement of yield and quality traits
Plants as factories for industrial products, pharmaceuticals and biomaterials
Plants and crop residues for bioenergy
Commercial, legal and public aspects
Prospects, limitations and sociological considerations of agricultural plant biotechnologies
Concluding remarks

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