

Sustainable Development and Biodiversity

Volume 10

Series editor

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Gene Pool Diversity and Crop Improvement

Volume 1

 Springer

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Preface

To respond to an ever-increasing need of food and fibre by the growing world's population, standing today at 7 billion and expected to reach 9 billion by 2050, there is a pressing need to increase crop productivity. This can be achieved by developing cultivars with better grain yield and high nutritive value through plant breeding in traditional crop plants and in supplementary crops identified by International Plant Genetic Resources Institute (IPGRI) and Consultative Group on International Agriculture (CGIAR). The genetic improvement can also be achieved by using biotechnological tools for alien gene transfer and engineering the traits in plants that are otherwise difficult using conventional plant breeding approaches, by newer methods to precisely and rapidly screen for traits of interest in the progeny, and by cytogenetic manipulations. Knowledge of genetic diversity, locked in the germplasm resources of the crop plants and wild relatives constituting primary, secondary, and tertiary gene pools, and the genome(s) characterization is essential for crop improvement and developing gene transfer strategies by multitude of tools that are now available.

This book addresses aforementioned issues in several crop species. Each chapter elucidates an authoritative account on the topic. We are sincerely grateful to all the authors for their valuable contributions. We would like to acknowledge cooperation, patience, and support of our contributors, who have put in their serious efforts to ensure a high scientific quality of this book with up-to-date information. We thank Dr. K.G. Ramawat for motivating us to take up this assignment. Sincere thanks are due to Khushboo Arora for her help during the editing process. This work could not be completed without the active support of Springer team who took pains in streamlining the production process. We particularly appreciate Dr. Valeria for her continued support. Vijay Rani Rajpal is sincerely grateful to her husband Susheel Rajpal and daughter Navya Rajpal for their patience and support during the entire period of this book project.

Plant breeders, taxonomists, geneticists, cytogeneticists, molecular biologists, and biotechnologists will greatly benefit from this book. We sincerely hope that this book will serve as a milestone towards achieving meaningful plant genetic improvement to meet the ever-increasing requirements of food and fibre of this world.

Vijay Rani Rajpal
S. Rama Rao
S.N. Raina

Contents

| | | |
|-----------|---|------------|
| 1 | <i>Leymus racemosus</i>: A Potential Species of Gene Pool Enrichment for Wheat Improvement | 1 |
| | Yasir Serag Alnor Gorafi and Hisashi Tsujimoto | |
| 2 | <i>Arachis</i> Gene Pools and Genetic Improvement in Groundnut | 17 |
| | Anurudh K. Singh and S.N. Nigam | |
| 3 | Genetic Resources of Chickpea (<i>Cicer arietinum</i> L.) and Their Utilization | 77 |
| | Deepak Ohri | |
| 4 | Genetic Improvement of Cotton | 105 |
| | S. Manickam and A.H. Prakash | |
| 5 | Genetic Diversity and Germplasm Patterns in <i>Brassica juncea</i> | 163 |
| | S.S. Banga and Shashi Banga | |
| 6 | Potato Diversity and Its Genetic Enhancement | 187 |
| | Avinash Srivastava, Vinay Bhardwaj, BP Singh and SM Paul Khurana | |
| 7 | Genome Plasticity in Buckwheat | 227 |
| | Nikhil K. Chrungoo, Lashaihun Dohtdong and Upasna Chetry | |
| 8 | Origin of Genetic Variability and Improvement of Quinoa (<i>Chenopodium quinoa</i> Willd.) | 241 |
| | Atul Bhargava and Deepak Ohri | |
| 9 | Emerging Invaders from the Cultivated Croplands: An Invasion Perspective | 271 |
| | Neha Goyal and Gyan Prakash Sharma | |
| 10 | Chromosome Engineering for High Precision Crop Improvement | 291 |
| | Harinder Kumar Chaudhary, Vineeta Kaila, Shoukat Ahmad Rather, Navdeep Singh Jamwal and Anila Badiyal | |

| | |
|--|-----|
| 11 Overview of Progress and Potentials of Improving Commonly Used <i>Allium</i> species in India | 325 |
| R.N. Gohil and Veenu Kaul | |
| 12 Utilization of Germplasm for the Genetic Improvement of Mung bean [<i>Vigna radiata</i> (L.) Wilczek]: The Constraints and the Opportunities | 367 |
| Ruchi Vir, Suman Lakhanpaul, Sonal Malik, Sooraj Umdale and Kangila Venkataramana Bhat | |
| 13 Genetic Improvement in the Genus <i>Eleusine</i> | 393 |
| Renuka Agrawal and Ankur Maheshwari | |
| 14 An Ancient Medicinal Plant at the Crossroads of Modern Horticulture and Genetics: Genetic Resources and Biotechnology of Sea Buckthorn (<i>Hippophae</i> L., Elaeagnaceae) | 415 |
| Igor V. Bartish | |
| 15 Unlocking the Potential of Genetic Resources for Improvement of Sesame (<i>Sesamum indicum</i> L.): The Current Scenario | 447 |
| Vibhuti Singh, Sachin Kumar, Amrita Singh, Niti Pathak Bhaduri, Kangila Venkataramana Bhat and Suman Lakhanpaul | |
| Index | 481 |

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