

PREFACE

Sustainable utilization of biodiversity resources is the key objective of the "Convention on Biological Diversity" program. It is necessary to conserve natural biodiversity by sound conservation strategies and proper utilization of its components for future generation. Towards this end, we have edited this book, *Biodiversity and Conservation: Characterization and Utilization of Plants, Microbes, and Natural Resources for Sustainable Development and Ecosystem Management*.

The ultimate goal of this book is to provide a pragmatic approach to preserve biological diversity. This book gathers a wide range of peer-reviewed scientific content from biodiversity researchers and conservators around the world. Collectively this book provides comprehensive knowledge and details about the present conservation status of a wide range of biological diversity that includes floral, faunal, and microbial diversity. It provides a detailed account of recent trends in conservation applications that focus mainly on agriculturally and industrially important microbes and their sustainable utilization that further enables specialist researchers to understand the potential strategies for conservation of biodiversity under changing climate conditions.

This book has been well written in simple and clear language. Tables and figures are also included in this book to make content easy to understand by the readers at any level. This book will serve as good reference material for students, scientists, researchers, and academicians working in the field of biodiversity conservation.

Chapter 1 discusses in detail biodiversity concepts, benefits, and values for economic and sustainable development. The second and third chapters extensively review the value of biodiversity in the legume family, and diversity and conservation status of spontaneous *Carum*, *Vicia*, and *Lathyrus* species in Lithuania. Plant diversity in rural home gardens of coastal taluks of Uttara Kannada in Karnataka, India has been discussed in a more informative way in Chapter 4. Chapter 5 reviews the *Primula* species as indicators of forest habitat diversity in Georgia, South Caucasus. Prospecting of coconut biodiversity for safe, healthy, and sustainable edible oil has well been explained in Chapter 6.

Chapters 7 and 8 deal extensively with diversity, metabolites, and applications of *Actinomycetes* and *Trichoderma*. Biodiversity and conservation of higher plants in Bangladesh, *in situ* and *ex situ* conservation of biodiversity in India, understanding the process of evolution, and the future of biodiversity under changing climate with special reference to infectious diseases have been discussed comprehensively in Chapter 9 to 11. Chapter 12 gives a detailed account on evolving park values among the local people in Taman Negara, and Chapter 13 discusses nature conservation in a Malaysian first-world heritage site through its recreational and tourism activities. Public awareness towards ecological services and cultural significance of mangroves in Southern Peninsular Malaysia has been well illustrated in Chapter 14.

The chapters in this book were well prepared and reviewed by many subject experts in the respective fields.

We wish to express our sincere thanks to all the authors for their valuable contributions, extraordinary revisions, and further assistance to finish this book successfully.

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