
Preface

Biotechnology is often used to refer to genetic engineering technology of the 21st century, however the term encompasses a wider range and history of procedures for modifying biological organisms according to the needs of humanity, going back to the initial modifications of native plants into improved food crops through artificial selection and hybridisation. With the development of new approaches and modern techniques, traditional biotechnology industries are acquiring new horizons enabling them to improve the quality of their products and increase the productivity of their systems.

There is growing consensus that the first half of the 21st century will be shaped to a considerable extent by the biotech revolution, just as the second half of the 20th century has been shaped by the information revolution. Developments in biotechnology will have tremendous implications for every aspect of life on this planet including the food we eat, the clothes we wear, management and protection of our environment, reproduction and maintenance of biodiversity, and the prevention and management of dread diseases like HIV/AIDS and cancer.

This book offers an insightful look in to this field, it explains almost every aspect of biotechnology from the basics principles to current trends and future prospects. It will be a valuable resource for academics and practitioners in the field of biotechnology.

Editor