

Preface

Photosynthesis has been a challenging scientific topic since it deals with the process by which a wide range of organisms from bacteria to higher plants convert solar energy to chemical energy for producing food, fiber and fuel out of small molecules of carbon dioxide and water. Deeper and greater understanding of this process holds a promise for a more sustainable Earth with enjoyable pollution-free environment with new technologies for food and cleaner energy for a peaceful and progressive society. Thus, there have been global efforts to mimic the photosynthetic process to meet the needs of the future world.

Topics of photosynthesis are unusually complex and difficult for students and laymen to understand. Luckily there are quite a few inspired teachers of photosynthesis research spread all over the world that makes this process of photosynthesis fascinating and understandable to all. One such teacher is Govindjee, Professor Emeritus of Biophysics, Biochemistry and Plant Biology at the University of Illinois at Urbana – Champaign, USA. His colleagues and comrades, students and friends, from around the world gathered on Nov. 26, 2008 at Devi Ahilya University, Indore, India to honor him for his contributions to photosynthesis research and his teaching by holding a International Conference entitled "Photosynthesis in the Global Perspective".

This book, first printed as *Photosynthesis – Overviews on Recent Progress and Future Perspective*, is an extension of the 2008 conference for honoring Govindjee for his numerous contributions to our understanding of the many critical processes in evolving the popular Z – scheme of Electron Transport in Photosynthesis. This book contains 19 selected overviews on several important aspects of Photosynthesis contributed by the participants at the Indore Conference. These 19 essays provide both tutorial content and critical insight in to the future of photosynthesis research. We are immensely grateful to all our contributors for writing chapters for this book.

We acknowledge with gratitude the Foreword by George C Papageorgiou that provides an excellent introduction for this book. We expect that this book would receive the attention of teachers and students of photosynthesis and by people who are interested in the process of photosynthesis by which living organisms are sustained on this planet.

The chapters of this volume have been reviewed by scientists active in the field. We thank them for their valuable comments. This is consistent also with the content of the present volume and all contributors deserve our sincerest thanks in this joint endeavor to disseminate 'information' and 'knowledge' about photosynthesis.

We are thankful to Anjana Jajoo and Govindjee for their efforts in bringing out the current reprint of this book in memory of Prasanna Mohanty. Also see the section on Acknowledgements that follows.

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