

This book provides an up-to-date account of various crops grown worldwide, with insights into the history of plant exploration, plant migration, domestication, distribution, and crop improvement efforts. Starting with the origin and diversification of cultivated plants, the vivid description goes on to various crops that are sources of food, beverages, spices, medicines, plant insecticides, timber plants and essential oil-yielding plants. Various topics covered in the book include genetic and evolutionary aspects of different plants and their health benefits, biodiversity conservation, petro-crops, ethnobotanical studies and important sub-tropical and temperate plants that have commercial value. In addition, the significance of major plant species under each category is described in detail. This book will be useful to students of botany, agriculture (including horticulture), food and nutrition, forestry, plant breeding, and environment science.

Key features

- Critically appraises the works of well-known botanists like Alphonse de Candolle, Vavilov, Harlan and Hawkes
- Covers the physiological rationale of using natural sources of antioxidants, and the health benefits of food plants
- Discusses contemporary issues such as transgenic crops and threats to biodiversity
- Well-illustrated with over 300 line diagrams and images
- Supporting content and additional material is available on the web at www.cambridge.org/9781107112940 and www.cambridgeindia.org

S. L. Kochhar taught Economic Botany and Plant Physiology at Khalsa College, University of Delhi for more than four decades (1965–2007). His areas of interest are botany, plant science, tropical crops and plant physiology.

Cover image source: Cienpies Design / Shutterstock

CAMBRIDGE
UNIVERSITY PRESS
www.cambridge.org

ISBN 978-1-107-11294-0



9 781107 112940