

Summary

As one of the oldest and most widespread plant-fungus symbioses on Earth, arbuscular mycorrhizae are able to form symbiotic associations with the majority of higher plants including most crops. They are recognized as an important component of most terrestrial ecosystems, playing significant roles in determining plant biodiversity, ecosystem variability and productivity. This book provided the authors' latest research results. The first four chapters summarily reviewed the biodiversity of arbuscular mycorrhizal fungi in China, and then typically studied arbuscular mycorrhizal fungal biodiversity in forest ecosystems, desert ecosystems, and the saline-alkali soil. The latter six chapters focused on the application of arbuscular mycorrhizal fungi in improving plant nutrition, accelerating the environmental remediation of polluted sites, and improving the quality and safety of agricultural products. The studies involved in this book were financed by the National Natural Science Foundation (Grant Nos. 40801120 and 40971150) and the China Postdoctoral Science Foundation. We also thank the Scholarly Monograph Publication Funds of Henan University of Science and Technology, for providing financial support towards the publication of the manuscript. The book will provide invaluable references for both academic researchers and professionals who work in arbuscular mycorrhizae, soil remediation, environmental management, plant nutrition, etc.

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