

Preface

The turn of the century and the past decade has witnessed impressive and great discoveries in the field of biotechnology that has offered the potential to improve the living standards of both humans and livestock. Biotechnology is an old field that has been rejuvenated in the recent years due to several advancements in newer techniques. It is a vast field wherein technical changes and novel ideas are being put forth each day. Of late, this field has emerged as a stimulating area, wherein it has created exceptional opportunities for the manipulation of biological systems. Even though, newer innovations have given rise to persistent public debates and controversies, biotechnology still rules the world. The public unrest towards animal cloning, genetically modified foods and other genetic manipulations still remains a hot debate worldwide. However, on a broader perspective, biotechnology should be considered as a technology which utilizes and exploits the beneficial aspects of living organisms or their products for beneficiary purposes.

Today, biotechnology, apart from dealing with plant and agriculture has expanded to the arena of food, microbial, animal, environmental and pharmaceutical sciences. Topics relevant to advancements in the field of biotechnology have not only diverted the attention of the present day researchers but also to that of common man. Though, a number of advance books and research monographs dealing with biotechnology are available, till date, there has been no up-to-date book available which covers almost all the aspects of Biotechnology. Hence, the present book has been designed in such a way that it covers various facets like: animal, plant, microbial, food, clinical/pharmaceutical and environmental biotechnology. With chapters from leading National and International experts in the field, the book contributes important empirical and conceptional analysis.

We the editors along with the authors are pleased to present this book which will surely be of immense value to students, researchers, technocrats and industrialists engaged in the field of biotechnology.

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