

## PREFACE

Biotechnology is one of the major technologies of the twenty-first century. Its wide-ranging, multi-disciplinary activities include recombinant DNA techniques, cloning and the application of microbiology for the production of goods from bread to antibiotics. In this edited book, we provide a complete overview of biotechnology. The fundamental principles of all biotechnology are explained and a full range of examples are discussed to show how these principles are applied; from starting substrate to final product. With the use of comparative studies, this book also discusses the legal, agribusiness and public policy issues that connect intellectual property protection with advancements in agricultural biotechnology.

The purpose of this book is to provide researcher with modern, balanced and thorough knowledge of biotechnology and microbiology. With such a broad array of potential topics and techniques available, it is difficult to select those that researcher should experience and master. The challenge in editing is to pick up the concepts that are most important for our understanding. The problem in editing it is to see where these concepts have changed or new ones have emerged. A large part of the text has been radically written to take account of recent advances. Some chapters have been dismantled and the material from them integrated into other chapters, emphasizing that these topics are not mere side issues for specialists, but belong to the core of biotechnology and microbiology.

We offer this work in good faith and in the hope that it will assist those individuals who seek to gain an understanding of the terminology as it is currently used. However, the reader should be aware that the field of biotechnology is rapidly expanding and evolving, and that new terms are entering the mainstream nomenclature at a rapid pace. In fact, the exact meaning of some of these terms is still under thought, while the meaning of others will undoubtedly be expanded or narrowed as the technology develops. Although we have endeavored to be as accurate as possible, this work is meant to provide a general introduction rather than to be absolute and legally definitive.

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