

## BOOK REVIEWS

---

tolerance in crop plants; disease, insect pests and abiotic stresses. The work being carried out by almost all the major research groups in the country engaged in developing tolerance to biotic stresses like fungal, bacterial and viral diseases, sap-sucking and lepidopteran insect pests are represented in these articles. Abiotic stresses like drought and salinity, which are more intractable, are dealt with in seven of these articles. Both MAS and transgenic approaches to defend the plants against these stresses have been described. From these reports it appears that many genetically improved crop lines have been developed using both MAS and transgenic approaches, leaving one wondering as to why the rate of deployment of these technologies in the farmer's field is not commensurate with their development in the research institutions.

The articles on quality enhancement deal with three main aspects; the understanding and improvement of organoleptic quality parameters of basmati rice, the enhancement of processing and nutritional quality in a few crops, and increasing the shelf-life of fruits and vegetables. At least two out of the seven articles in this section are more in the nature of a conceptual note rather than a research report. The last section of the book consists of eight abstracts on different topics; other than adding to the pages, these do not seem to have much value.

Generally, the authors of individual articles have given an overview of their own research programmes, which is appropriately embedded inside an extensive review of the current global status of research in the area. While the articles themselves may not have been rigorously peer-reviewed, the authors have not held

back from citing their own peer-reviewed publications, wherever available, to lend authenticity to the data and their conclusions.

After going through the entire book, the title, appears somewhat incongruous. 'Relevance', can be found in some sections, but not 'reservation'. In spite of a few minor shortcomings, this book would be a worthy acquisition for anyone interested in a status-check on the plant molecular biology research in the country.

K. K. NARAYANAN

*Metahelix Life Sciences Limited,  
3, KIADB 4th Phase,  
Bommasandra,  
Bangalore 560 099, India  
e-mail: narayanan@meta-helix.com*

---

## Addendum

### Book review: 'Biodiversity of Sikkim: Exploring and Conserving a Global Hotspot'

J. S. Singh [*Curr. Sci.*, 2012, **102**, 1212–1213]

References were omitted from the hard copy of this publication for sake of reducing the already heavy and bulky size.

However, in order to ensure easy and cost-free availability of this book, it has also been simultaneously released online, where all the chapters can be downloaded along with the full list of references. The book is available in the official website of the Sikkim Forest Department (<http://www.sikenvis.nic.in/Biodiversity-of-Sikkim.htm>).