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PREFACE

The present agriculture growth rate is very low and the pace is required to be maintained at least double of the existing one enabling us to achieve the targets to feed the burgeoning population world over which may surge to 10 billion by 2030. The world leaders have already been struggling to cope up with the food demands, whereas on other hand malnutrition is afflicting several million people in developing countries, more specifically African and Asian countries. There remains nonetheless a big challenge for plant scientists to fight with the problems such as food starvation, malnutrition, post harvest conservation evolving technologies to achieve food security. Simultaneously, redressal of a watchdog for monitoring the contingent plans to cover over the emergencies in wake of prolonged droughts havocs, tsunamis, epiphytotics etc. These are not the times to sit in compartmentalized disciplines, instead an integrated dynamic approach to major problems will inevitably be adequately required for solving complexities.

The subject of Plant Pathology has not remained an isolated piece of cake, but however, in recent past it has shown its Oceania characteristics by dissolving the elusive partition walls. It is relevant to quote Toffler's dictum "future has already arrived", which argues well in context to the subject of Plant Pathology where symptomatologically this vast and dynamic discipline has already coalesced with molecular biology on one hand and biotechnology/nanotechnology on the other hand. In essence marvels of research in plant sciences shall offer a bountiful of fascinating conceptual theories, which would put us on lever of challenges to accommodate these comfortably in teaching and research agenda. Evidently as the legend goes, dynamism has traditionally been so inherent to the subject of Plant Pathology that the paraphyses of it ever remain receptive to advanced

sciences. There can not be any doubt, whatsoever, that the edifice of developments in modern biotechnology in totality as one of its stupendous achievements of the collective scientific wisdom of mankind perhaps is best exemplified by producing GM crops.

This review volume we are presenting to the readers is encompassing wide spectrum interests inclusive of mycology (fungi of aquatic nature and human pathogens, bioagents etc.), biochemical and molecular plant pathology, integrated disease management, root/soil microbiology etc. We have considered several aspects to sift, analyse and arrange the articles to provide best possible to readers and hope that it will serve the purpose of Reviews in Plant Pathology. We thank all the learned authors for contributing the novel and up-to-date articles for inclusion in the review book. Thanks to ISMPP for entrusting us with the task of completing the volume 5 of the review series.

Editors

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