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BOOK REVIEW

JEFFCOAT, B., HAWKINS, A. F., STEAD, A. D. (ed.): REGULATION OF SOURCES AND SINKS IN CROP PLANTS. Monograph 12. — British Plant Growth Regulator Group, Bristol 1985. XII + 295 pp.

In the 1960's and 1970's, yield formation of crops was studied mainly by scientists interested in photosynthesis. After all, "it is generally accepted that the yield of many crops would be improved if rates of photosynthesis could be increased". In 1984, British Plant Growth Regulator Group organized its Symposium entitled "Regulation of Sources and Sinks in Crop Plants". The ever growing concern of scientists dealing with plant hormones in yield formation of crops might be due to the fact, that "this requires an examination of the processes of photosynthesis as well as the nature of the message linking sink requirements with the source and indeed whether distant sinks influence photosynthesis". And so we all may agree with the last quotation also taken from the editor's preface, namely that "regulation of these processes is fundamental to increasing crop production and a prime target for plant regulator research".

The monograph contains articles written by 35 contributors from the U.K. (23), the U.S.A. (5), Australia (4), Belgium (2), and the F.R.G. (1). The Symposium was divided into four Sessions headed by J. Barber, J. P. Cooper, D. A. Morris and P. F. Wareing, respectively. Consequently, all the contributions of the monograph have been arranged into the following four chapters: 1. Regulation within the chloroplast: Chloroplast-cytosol interaction. 2. Environmental limits to photosynthesis: genetic and growth regulator effects. 3. Regulation of assimilate production and distribution by sink demand. 4. Interaction of sources and sinks in crop production.

The sink-source relationship has been treated in an extremely complex manner. The monograph's main topic, the themes of the individual chapters as well as the authors may guarantee the uppermost quality of the publication. In my opinion, the study of the contributions comes up to expectation.

The monograph contains neither object nor subject index. But the content is well arranged and easy to survey for specialist experienced in any of the fields treated and for an interested beginner as well. Neither of them would regret. The monograph is, once more, a useful compilation of fine articles for the scientists interested in the yield formation, sink-source relationship, plant growth regulators actions and related subjects.

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