

of elongation growth of the stem observed in the plants thus treated is considered to be due to neutralization of the correlative inhibition of stem growth.

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Fig. 2 at the end of the issue.

BOOK REVIEW

BAJAJ, Y. P. S. (ed.): BIOTECHNOLOGY IN AGRICULTURE AND FORESTRY, VOL. 1. TREES I. — Springer-Verlag, Berlin—Heidelberg—New York—Tokyo 1986. 515 pp. Hard cover DM 298.—.

During the last decades a number of review publications on plant biotechnology appeared, reflecting the rapidly increasing information on various aspects of plant cell, tissue and organ culture, and the development of other unconventional approaches, such as *in vitro* genetic manipulation and cryoconservation of germplasm, directed to potential practical applications in economically important plants. The special feature of the present series is its organization according to plant species and its comprehensiveness. The results obtained in both temperate and tropical countries are reviewed by renowned specialists in the respective fields.

The first volume is devoted to fruit, forest and nut trees. The introductory general chapters describe some basic commonly used biotechnological methods from the aspects of applications in woody plants. Meristem-tip culture became a current practice to eliminate virus diseases in trees. Micrografting consisting in grafting an apex taken from a mother plant on various young plants provides new possibilities for micropropagation and to studies on juvenility and vegetative incompatibility. *In vitro* techniques of the root induction in rootstocks and scion cultivars can improve the vegetative propagation of deciduous fruit-trees. Anther culture is a promising technique for induction of haploids in trees through androgenesis. Symbiose is shown to be an important factor in tissue culture of *Alnus* spp., and finally, the general chapters deal with long-term storage of fruit tree pollen and with cryopreservation of germplasm of woody plants. The special section includes the following species: plum, cherry, peach, apple, pear, citrus, papaya, banana, olive, mango, radiata pine, Norway spruce, araucaria, cryptomeria, juniper, elms, eucalypts, sandalwood, acacia, mulberry, chestnut, almonds and coconut palm. The aspects vary according to species and the progress achieved. The techniques of *in vitro* propagation mostly predominate.

The volume representing a comprehensive up-to-date reference — and textbook on the present state of art and on potential use of biotechnological methods in economically important woody plants will certainly be of great interest to a very wide audience.