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BOOK REVIEW

SHARMA, S. K., GUPTA, L. C.: SALINE ENVIRONMENT AND PLANT GROWTH. — Agro Botanical Publishers, Bikaner 1986. 173 pp. US \$ 25.00; Rs 150.00.

The salinity problem in agriculture becomes more serious every year in the whole world and especially in India. Therefore it is not surprising that the monograph providing a critical survey of the saline environment and the plant growth was written by two well-known Indian scientists.

The book is introduced by two chapters concerning the salt affected soils: their occurrence, properties and possibilities of reclamation and management. In the third chapter the authors discuss the general characteristics of halophytes and glycophytes and the criteria for salt tolerance. The mechanism of salt injury is the main topic of the fourth chapter. This chapter deals with the osmotic stress, specific ion toxicity and the nutrient imbalance. Salinity affects almost all aspects of plant metabolism and induces changes in the plant anatomy and morphology. These problems are discussed in detail in Chapter 5. Finally, Chapters 6 and 7 are devoted to the mechanism of salt resistance and to the strategies of increasing it in crop plants.

Although this book is not so well printed as books published in famous Publishing houses and also the quality of figures is not very high, it is an important source of information that is otherwise difficult to acquire for scientists working in the respective research field.