Principles and Practice of Advanced Technology in Plant Virology

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The first plant virus, i.e., Tobacco mosaic virus, was discovered a century ago. Since then, virology has become a subject of science. To date, numerous viral diseases have been reported in all organisms. These viral diseases account for dramatic costs including mortality, morbidity, and economic losses. It is estimated that only plant viral diseases cause yearly losses over multibillion dollars worldwide. Genetic resistance has been considered the most effective approach to the control of viral diseases. Unfortunately, natural resistant resources to viral diseases in plants are rare. Currently a common measure against plant viral diseases is the application of pesticides or nematicides to prevent their transmission. However, these chemicals are not only expensive but also cause public concerns about their negative impact on the environment. More recently, genetic engineering has emerged as an alternative method for the development of genetic resistance to viral diseases. The best example, perhaps, is transgenic papaya that saved the papaya industry in Hawaii, the US from devastation by the ringspot virus, a viral pathogen around the world. The transgenic papaya became the first genetically modified fruit that were successfully commercialized. This fantastic accomplishment reflects advances in plant virology. This book is aimed at reviewing the principles and procedures of current advanced methodology in plant virology in anticipation of providing a reference book for plant pathologists, microbiologists, virologists, teachers and students who are interested in plant virology. This book consists of 19 chapters that are grouped into four sections. Part I reviews major technologies for the diagnosis of plant viruses. Part II describes current methods in studying virus-plant interactions. Part III discusses approaches to the control of plant viral diseases. Part IV introduces the beneficial uses of plant viruses. The editor is extremely grateful to all the authors and the staff of Research Signpost for their valuable contribution and suggestions to this project. The editor also wishes to thank his friends, colleagues and family who have helped in various ways in making this project possible and successful. This book is dedicated to all the researchers committed to plant virology.

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