Review of Books

*1. **Microbial Interaction in Agriculture and Forestry***, Vol. II is the edited book. N. S. Subba Rao, formerly Head and Project Director of the Microbiology Division, Indian Agricultural Research Institute, New Delhi, well known for his research in the field of Biological Nitrogen Fixation and Biofertilizer Technology and Y. R. Dommergues, Director of Research Emeritus (CNRS, France), former Head, Laboratory of Tropical Forest Symbioses at ORSTOM, Dakar, Senegal and at CIRAD-forêt, Nogent-sur-Marne, Franoe, well known for his domain in Soil Microbiology are the editor of this book. This edited book constitute 12 chapters written by eminent National and International Scientists and researchers based on their experiences of their original piece of research work carried out as per the modern techniques and plants/organisms like, Membrane or Liquid Hybridization Assay (MHA or LHA) on target sequencing of purified DNA or rRNA, Polymerase Chain Reaction (PCR), Genetically Modified (GM) plants and Genetically Modified Organisms (GMO) or Genetically Engineered Organism (GEO) under various Environmental Conditions. Topics on insect, pests and disease resistance and biological control, taxonomic enumeration, actinorhizal symbiosis, acquired defense mechanisms for systemic disease resistance to *ward off* and *downy mildew* diseases, micro-habitation around root region (rhizosphere, rhizoplan) and increase in crop yield by Plant Growth Promoting Rhizobacteria (PGPR) in non-leguminous plants under varying ecological and physiological conditions have been well described. Overall the content of this edited book is of present day requirement i.e., agricultural sustainability and implication for the environment arising from the production of genetically engineered plants, biological nitrogen fixation, micro-organisms and productivity may increase interest among the National Scientists, researchers and students of Agriculture, Forestry, Bio Sciences, Bio-Technology and Bio-Engineering. The layout and DTP composition of book, photographs, graphics and data have been well presented. The cost of this book is Rs. 850/- only, published by Oxford and IBH Publishing Co. Pvt. Ltd., New Delhi and Kolkata is a Special Indian Edition (Not for Export Outside India) appeared in March, 2000, ISBN 81-204-1418-7, pp. 294.

*2. **Crop Improvement : Quality Characters*** is 3-Volume treatise embodies 7 chapters on qualitative improvement of crop plants after discussing qualitative yield increases in both normal and stressful conditions in Vol. 1 and 2 respectively. The author of this book is Professor U.S. Gupta, currently Adjunct Professor in the Department of Crop and Soil Sciences, University of Gerogia, Athens. The chapters have been written mainly on qualitative improvement aspects viz. producing grains rich in protein with desirable amino acid profile, oil, crop with high and short chain unsaturated fatty acids, vegetables with increased mineral and vitamin and anti-nutritional factors. This book is useful to those who are engaged in crop improvement research and project work and to the students studying in this area. The book is very handy and its layout, DTP composition and style of data presentation is out standing. The cost of this Special Indian Edition is Rs. 550/- only published by Oxford and IBH Publishing Co. Pvt. Ltd., New Delhi and Kolkata in 2000, ISBN 81-2041-1406-3, pp. 158 including the author and subject indices.

SHEO KUMAR
Botanical Survey of India
Ministry of Environment and Forests,
Govt. of India
P-8, Brabourne Road,
Kolkata – 700 001, W.B., India