

BOOK REVIEW

Economic Botany in the Tropics (Ed. 2)
by S.L. Kapoor, Macmillan India Ltd., 2/10
Ansari Road, Daryaganj, New Delhi-110002,
1998; 604 pages; ISBN 0333931181, Price
Rs. 268/-.

The text is spread over 21 chapters; there are 9 appendices, general references, suggested supplementary readings and index. All the chapters are very thoroughly planned and contain updated and authentic information. Last four chapters dealing with specialised topics viz. Green Revolution (chapter 18), Transgenic crops (chapter 19), Plant cryotechnology (chapter 20), and Life & Work of Vavilov (chapter 21), impart a special status to the book much above any text book in the market.

First chapter introduces the subject in a very impressive way starting from the history of origin of cultivated plants, to the future strategies for the global food requirements. Successive chapters (2-17) provide well illustrated and lucid details of 160 important crop plants covering fibres, cereals, sugars,

starch & cellulose, legumes, vegetable oils & fats, fruits & nuts, vegetables, spices, condiments & other flavourings, fumitory and masticatory materials, beverages, wood, vegetable tannins & dyes, rubber, medicinal plants, insecticides & herbicides; essential oils, with line drawings and black & white photographs.

The nine appendices on Radiocarbon dating, International & National Agricultural Research Institutions, Useful trees, High yielding varieties of major crops and Microchemical tests for major reserve food materials add significantly to the usefulness of the book to a variety of readers.

The book is exceptionally reader friendly for which publishers also deserve special appreciation for keeping the price affordable by one and all. However, there are a few nomenclatural errors which need to be rectified in future edition.

N.P. Singh
R.C. Srivastava