Recent Advances in Seed Spices

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A spice is a dried seed, fruit, root, bark or vegetative substance used in nutritionally insignificant quantities as a food additive for flavor, color or as a preservative that kills harmful bacteria or prevents their growth. In India a wide variety of spices are grown and many of them are native to the subcontinent and also known as “Home of Spices”. Out of 109 spice crops, twenty crops have been identified as seed spices out of which cumin, fennel, coriander and fenugreek are major seed spices. Both Gujarat and Rajasthan accounts for about 80 per cent area and production in India.

The major concern in seed spices are low production, effect of global warming, maintenance of quality and indiscriminate use of chemical fertilizers and pesticides. The residue of undesirable chemicals is major hurdle for export.

The promotion of good agricultural practices has become prevalent in an increasing number of horticultural products more so in grapes and pomegranates. Now, efforts are on to extend good agricultural practices to a larger number of horticultural crops and spices. To tackle the issue of contamination in seed spices a traceability framework on the lines of Grape-Net (developed by the Agricultural and Processed Food Product Export Development Authority (APEDA) may be developed in seed spices. Promoting organic farming, awareness about good agricultural practices, on farm primary processing and adding new and upgrading terminal markets would definitely help export promotion.

This book entitled “Recent Advances in Seed Spices” is an attempt to bring some of these issues to the forefront and identify opportunity to enhance productivity, quality and export promotion. I am sure this book would be helpful to the students, researchers, traders and exporters.

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Preface

The present book “Recent Advances in Seed Spices” is an attempt to compile information on status of seed spices, utilization of genetic resources, production technologies for enhancement of productivity & quality, protection technologies for the management of various diseases and insects, technologies for farm mechanization in seed spices, post harvest technologies for minimization of post harvest losses, interventions of biotechnological tools for spices improvement in terms of quality, transfer of technologies from research farm to farmers field, and use of information technology for spices trade.

Hope that this book will be very useful to the students, spices research workers, biotechnologists, traders and exporters.

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