BOOK REVIEW


As indicated in the „Preface” (p. XIII–XIV) this book contains papers presented at a symposium „Seeds of Change: Intellectual Protection for Agricultural Biotechnology” held at the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign, USA.

In an introduction titled „Seeds of change: a link among the legal, economic and agricultural biotechnology communities” (p. XVII–XXX) the editor of this book J. P. Keson explains that farming, which experienced slow but steady changes during the thousands of years, has undergone rapid change during the last 200 years. Genetic engineering used in agricultural biotechnology has provided scientists and breeders genetic engineering tools that allow greatly accelerate plant breeding and is responsible for the positive revolutionary changes in the farming system.

The book contains five parts and twenty four chapters concerning theory, practice and policy problems in agriculture and food industry.


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“Subject Index” (p. 373–383) is quite detailed and allows to find even narrow topic and therefore is very helpful.

Topics of plant protection and plant varieties genetically modified with traits for the purpose of protecting cultivated plants against pathogens, pests and herbicides are discussed in many chapters. Particularly extensively is described the issue of genetically modified potato varieties with Cry genes of Bacillus thuringiensis securing resistance against potato tuber moth (Gnorimoschema operculella) grown in Egypt. However, the import of such potato varieties has been banned by several European countries causing significant economic difficulties for Egypt.

This collection of 24 chapters on scientific, moral and legal issues raised by genetic engineering covers the diffusion of intellectual property protection under law and global competition, rules and standards for patent law in plant sciences, pollen drift and other inadvertent use, restriction technologies, trade negotiation for knowledge resources.

I recommend this book to all agricultural libraries and to attention of wide circles of specialists in agricultural, horticultural and food science disciplines.

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