## Plant, Soil and Microbes

Khalid Rehman Hakeem • Mohd Sayeed Akhtar Editors

# Plant, Soil and Microbes

Volume 2: Mechanisms and Molecular Interactions



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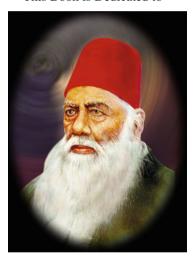
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#### This Book is Dedicated to



Sir Syed Ahmad Khan (1817-1898)

A great visionary, statesman, Muslim reformer of the 19th century and founder of Aligarh Muslim University, India

#### **Foreword**

Worldwide considerable research in the area of belowground plant-microbe interaction is quite important to enrich soil fertility and in the enhancement of crop productivity. It seems imperative to understand the modifications of belowground interactions under specific plant and microbe communication system accomplished by molecular dialogues. It is, therefore, essential to decode and explore this molecular language so as to establish a successful tripartite relationship among plant, soil and microbes. The soils are the product of rocks, minerals and organic matters with a pivotal role in ecology. Most of the plants depend on soil, but plants and their associated microorganisms are also important component together in the formation and sustainability of rhizospheric ecology. The understanding about plant, soil and microbe interaction is limited; molecular mechanisms and other several consequences may reveal with other process yet to be explored. This book entitled *Plant*, Soil and Microbe. Volume 2: Mechanisms and Molecular Interactions deals with how plant-microbe interactions occur using molecular pattern and applied in environment scavenging such as pesticide degradation and polycyclic aromatic hydrocarbons (PAHs) remediation. The importance of fungal symbiosis, tripartite interactions among plant-Trichoderma-pathogen with special reference to proteomic tools in biocontrol, has been described. The mechanism of plant growth promoting rhizobacteria-soil-root interaction, their ability towards growth, secondary metabolite production and nutrient uptake in medicinal and aromatic plants has been suitably mentioned. The bacterial determinants and plant defence induction in sustainable agriculture have an added advantage to strengthen the concept of biocontrol of deleterious phytopathogens. The elaborative description on the molecular identification of phytoplasma diseases in ornamental plants is itself appealing. The introductory account on allelochemicals from ascocarp of Tuber species is a point of difference. Besides, mycorrhizal associations, the biocontrol potential of Bacillus thuringiensis, genomics of plant-soil microbial diversity and the importance of root exudates in rhizosphere ecosystem and phytohormones in abiotic stress tolerance of plants have been elaborated. It is oceanic to gain update in the quest for knowledge of plant-soil-microbial interactions and their applications in a befitting manner. The editors Khalid Rehman Hakeem and Mohd. Sayeed Akhtar have put some viii Foreword

outstanding efforts to compile subject experts' contribution in a very attractive manner with an understanding of sequences of the chapters. *Plant, Soil and Microbe, Volume 2: Mechanisms and Molecular Interactions* includes broad contributions from all dimensions of agronomy. Specifically, this volume describes a holistic view of plant-microbe interactions, and its recent molecular mechanism emerged from studying multi-tropic interaction. The editors have immensely provided a solid foundation of the subject interesting for the researchers involved in soil microbiology, plant pathology, ecology and agronomy.

Faculty of Life Science Department of Botany and Microbiology Gurukul Kangri University Hardwar, Uttarakhand, India D.K. Maheshwari

#### **Preface**

Plants are exposed to a huge diversity of microbes in the environment. Owing to the broad range of microbes, a complex set of molecular mechanisms mediates the plant-microbe interactions. These interactions have been seen to possess both negative and positive effects on either or both the members. Considering the importance of these ground rhizospheric microorganisms in the plant disease protection, it came into highlight from research that the combined application of these microorganisms is more beneficial than the use of a single agent and provides a better management against the soil-borne plant pathogens. The interaction of these microorganisms also provides an overview about the biological functions of soil and its interaction with the plant-microbe system, nutrient management, biogeochemical cycling, water various environmental condition in response to biotic and abiotic stresses, signalling of molecules during host-pathogen interaction, role of phytohormones against the environmental stresses and the major challenges in the formulation of microorganisms for the biocontrol products. The molecular approach of these microorganisms is also the basis for understanding the mechanism involved in disease suppression by these hidden underground beneficial microbes.

This volume with 18 chapters from experts on the subject describes a holistic view of plant-microbe interactions and its recent molecular mechanism emerged from studying multi-tropic interaction. It is imperative to understand the modifications of belowground interactions under specific plant and microbe communication system accomplished by molecular dialogues. We hope that the book will be helpful for the graduate students, teachers, researchers and industry persons, who are interested in soil microbiology, plant pathology, ecology, environmental sciences and agronomy.

We are highly grateful to all our contributors for readily accepting our invitation for not only sharing their knowledge and research but for venerably integrating their expertise in dispersed information from diverse fields in composing the chapters and enduring editorial suggestions to finally produce this venture. We greatly x Preface

appreciate their dedication. We are also thankful to Prof. (Dr.) D. K. Maheshwari for his suggestions and writing the foreword for this volume. We also thank Springer-International team for their generous cooperation at every stage of the book production.

Serdang, Malaysia Shahjahanpur, Uttar Pradesh, India Khalid Rehman Hakeem Mohd Sayeed Akhtar

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The original version of the book frontmatter was revised. The spelling of the second editor, Mohd Sayeed Akhtar's name was corrected in the Table of Contents. The Erratum to the book frontmatter is available at  $10.1007/978-3-319-29573-2_19$ 

### **About the Editors**

Khalid Rehman Hakeem, PhD is working as a fellow researcher at the Faculty of Forestry, Universiti Putra Malaysia (UPM), Serdang, Selangor, Malaysia, and also visiting professor at Fatih University, Istanbul, Turkey. He has obtained his MSc (Environmental Botany) as well as PhD (Botany) from Jamia Hamdard, New Delhi, India, in 2006 and 2011, respectively. He did his postdoctorate in the fields of forest dynamics and biotechnological studies from Universiti Putra Malaysia from 2012 to 2013. Dr. Hakeem has more than 8 years of teaching and research experience in plant ecophysiology, biotechnology and molecular biology as well as in ecological and environmental sciences. Recipient of several fellowships at both national and international levels, Dr. Hakeem has so far edited and authored more than 15 books with international publishers. He has also to his credit more than 100 publications in peer-reviewed international journals, including 35 book chapters with International publishers. He is also an editorial board member and reviewer of several high-impact international journals. Dr. Hakeem is currently engaged in studying the plant processes at ecophysiological as well as proteomic levels.

Mohd. Sayeed Akhtar, PhD is working as an assistant professor in Gandhi Faiz-E-Aam College, Shahjahanpur, affiliated to M.J.P. Rohailkhand University, Bareilly, U.P., India. He has received his PhD degree from Aligarh Muslim University (AMU), India, in 2008. He has conducted his postdoctoral research at the Botanical Institute, University of Basel (BIB), Switzerland (2008–2010), and Chonbuk National University (CBNU), Republic of Korea, in 2011, respectively. He also works as an assistant professor, Department of Biology, College of Natural Sciences, Jimma University, Jimma, Ethiopia (form 2011 to 2014), and fellow researcher UDQ9 at the Institute of Tropical Agriculture, Universiti Putra Malaysia (UPM), Serdang, Selangor, Malaysia (from 2014 to 2015). Dr. Akhtar has more than 12 years of research and teaching experience in soil microbiology, applied microbiology, environmental microbiology, molecular biology, plant pathology and plant nanobiotechnology. Dr. Akhtar has received several prestigious fellowships at national and international levels. His promising approach and dedication stands him in the row of foremost scientists in the field of plant-microbe interaction and plant

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nanobiotechnology. He is author and coauthor of about 50 research articles in peerreviewed journals, contributed 12 book chapters in the books published by Springer-Verlag and also edited 4 books with international publishers. He is serving the scientific community as editorial board member and reviewer of several high-impact international journals. His current research is focused on the rhizospheric plantmicrobe interactions and their molecular biotechnology, bioremediation, biomineralization, nano-fertilizers and nanobiotechnology.