Advances in Pectin and Pectinase Research

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Preface

The second international symposium on Pectins and Pectinases was organized by Wageningen University and Research Centre and held in Rotterdam, May 6-10, 2001. This successful meeting was attended by around 130 participants from more than 20 countries representing almost all of the groups and industries working worldwide on pectins and pectinases. Following the first meeting on this subject held in December 1995, the symposium definitely forms a platform for researchers and industries working in the field, all within their own discipline and expertise. The symposium demanded a written account and this book is the result of that. It contains all keynote lectures and other oral presentations and provides an update about the current research. Significant progress has been made in the last 5 years.
This book provides an up-to-date insight into the research on pectin and pectic enzymes involved in their biosynthesis, degradation, modification or utilization. The progress in the elucidation of the chemical structure of pectin and mode of action and 3-D structure of the pectin degrading enzymes allows us to identify and influence the functionality of pectins and pectic enzymes, both *in vitro* after isolation as well in the plants themselves (*in planta*). Other contributions deal with new applications of both pectin and pectin-degrading enzymes, while more and more attention is paid to health and nutritional aspects of pectins.
The book provides a 'state of the art' account for both beginners and experienced researchers of almost all disciplines of pectin research.
We hope that it will satisfy your interests in this important and fast developing research field.

Fons Voragen, Henk Schols & Richard Visser, editors