

TREE BIOTECHNOLOGY: TOWARDS THE MILLENIUM

Tree Biotechnology: Towards the Millenium, M. R. Davey, P. G. Alderson, K. C. Lowe and J. B. Power (eds.), Nottingham University Press, Nottingham, U. K., 1998, 396 pp., softcover, ISBN 1-897676-68-9.

Contents of this book follows oral presentations of invited persons participating in the 1997 UK Tree Biotechnology Group Symposium, held at the University of Nottingham, U.K. The central purpose of that meeting was to foster information flow and research between scientists working in the wide area of tree biotechnology, and to provide a forum for discussion of research initiatives and concomitant experimental advances. This proceedings represents a set of 40 highly topical contributions, both from university and nursery.

The introductory paper is dedicated to The Countryside Commission's idea of developing the National Forest that would contribute to the national timber supply and be a major recreation and tourism resource. The following articles discuss the innovative Farm Woodlands Programme, tree management and financial aspects of quality timber production, and the restoration of natural forest-based ecosystems on a global scale. The substantial part of the book deals with

micropropagation techniques, and cell and protoplast approaches to achieve the rapid multiplication of elite woody species. The range of studied species is quite wide: conifers, noble hardwoods, fruit trees and woody ornamentals. Further series of papers give fundamental insights into gene transfer technologies and transgene expression in woody plants. There is no surprise that this very active field of research contributes by 11 papers to the book content. The last four reports integrate information on several molecular procedures, including DNA fingerprinting and fluorescence *in situ* hybridization. General and species indexes close the volume.

Tree Biotechnology may be of value and interest to all those who are committed to the multidisciplinary elements of tree biotechnology and its exploitation, both now and future.

Jaroslav Ďurkovič (Zvolen, Slovakia)