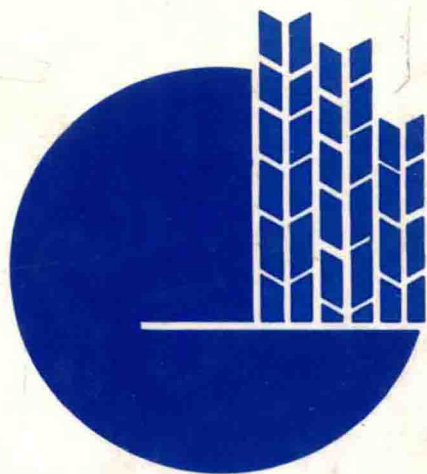


**CURRENT PLANT SCIENCE AND
BIOTECHNOLOGY IN AGRICULTURE**

Biotechnology in Agriculture

**Chongbiao You
Zhangliang Chen
Yong Ding
editors**



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Current Plant Science and Biotechnology in Agriculture

VOLUME 15

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The book series is intended for readers ranging from advanced students to senior research scientists and corporate directors interested in acquiring in-depth, state-of-the-art knowledge about research findings and techniques related to plant science and biotechnology. While the subject matter will relate more particularly to agricultural applications, timely topics in basic science and biotechnology will also be explored. Some volumes will report progress in rapidly advancing disciplines through proceedings of symposia and workshops while others will detail fundamental information of an enduring nature that will be referenced repeatedly.

The titles published in this series are listed at the end of this volume.

Foreword

The First Asia --- Pacific Conference on Agricultural Biotechnology was held in Beijing, China on 20-24, August, 1992.

Over half the population in the world is in the Asian and Pacific Region. With an increasing population and decreasing farming lands, it is important to develop agricultural biotechnology for improvement of the productivity, profitability and stability of the farming system.

The Conference's main objectives were to bring together scientists working in different fields of agricultural biotechnology to stimulate discussion on this important process and to have an appraisal of the most recent studies concerning genetic manipulation of plants, plant cell and tissue culture, plant gene regulation, plant-microbe interaction, animal biotechnology etc. The Conference was attended by 391 scientists from different countries and regions.

This volume presents the contributions of the lectures and a selected number of posters, which are an up-to-date account of the state of knowledge on agricultural biotechnology. The book provides a valuable reference source not only for specialists in agricultural biotechnology, but also for researchers working on related aspects of agronomy, biochemistry, genetics, molecular biology, microbiology and animal sciences.

It is with great pleasure to acknowledge the contributions of the authors in assuring the prompt publication of this volume. We would also extend our sincere thank to Kluwer Academic Publishers for the publication of these proceedings.

C.B.You
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TABLE OF CONTENTS

Foreword	xi
Opening lecture	
Agricultural biotechnology in China Z. S. Li	1
General papers	
The cellular and molecular mechanism of coat protein mediated resistance in transgenic plants R. N. Beachy	7
Isolation and partial characterization of an antifungal protein from rice H. Liu, H. Y. Gu, X. Chen, S. J. Tang, N. S. Pan and Z. L. Chen	11
Somatic hybridization for improvement of crop Brassicas V. L. Chopra, P. B. Kirti, S. B. Narasimhulu, S. Prakash, K. K. Abdurahiman and B. Dominic	18
The role of plant regeneration from protoplasts in agricultural biotechnology E. C. Cocking	27
RNA polymerase and nodD promoters of the nodulation genes in <i>R. leguminosarum</i> G. F. Hong	33
Mechanisms of somatic embryogenesis in plant cell cultures. A. Komamine and R. Kawahara	37
Emerging strategies for enhancing crop resistance to microbial pathogens C. J. Lamb, J. A. Rvals, E. R. Ward and R. A. Dixon	45
Biotechnology in a changing world: Implications for rice research K. Lampe	61
Biological insect control and genetic engineering K. Q. Mang	65
Present plant biotechnology M. Holsters, J. Leemans, and M. Van Montagu	78
Biological software in agriculture J. Peacock	86
Factors affecting the viability of fresh and cryopreserved embryos J. N. Shelton	94
The chloroplast genome from crop plants M. Sugiura	105
Biovillages and a better biofuture for Asia M. S. Swaminathan	112
Progress and prospects for using biotechnology in plant breeding G. Toenniessen	125
Production and analysis of transgenic rice plants D. Xu, T. Y. Wu, J. Cao, R. Wu	130
Development and prospects of hybrid rice breeding L. P. Yuan	136
Growth hormone gene and the transgenic fish Z. Y. Zhu	145

Genetic Manipulation

Transgenic cabbage plants with insect tolerance	
Y. Y. Bai, H. Z. Mao, X. L. Cao, T. Tang, D. Wu, D. D. Chen, W. G. Li and W. J. Fu	156
Synthesis and expression of a gene for mature small subunit of rice rubisco	
H. B. Chen and G. A. Wang	160
Functional and structural analysis of promoter fragments in soybean nuclear DNA	
J. L. Dong, S. Fukumi, X. L. Xu and J. L. Li	165
The endosperm-specific activity of a rice prolamin promoter in transgenic tobacco	
Y. L. Fan and X. J. Zhou	169
Isolation of insecticidal genes for transgenic plants	
T. Y. Feng, K. F. Chak, C. L. Lan and H. S. Chang	174
Cytoplasmic male sterility and male fertility restoration the expression and evolution of the mt S-Pcf locus	
N. Firon, O. Gidoni, D. Nachshoni, V. Yesodi, Y. Tabib, O. Soferman, D. Evenor and S. Izhar	178
Cloning and nucleotide sequence of chloroplast psaA gene from sorghum	
X. S. Gong, N. H. Wu, J. Z. Jan and L. F. Yen	181
Finger printing barley genome using PCR with arbitrary primer in barley plants regenerated from tissue culture	
N. Gozukirmizi, S. Ari, F. Gurel, F. Gumusel and B. Cirakoglu	185
Construction of rice Zhenshan 97B mitochondrial genomic library, screening and mapping of atp6 atp9 genes	
W. Guo, Y. Wang, X. M. Zhan, J. H. Chai and X. M. Wang	189
Interaction of nuclear proteins with 5'-upstream region of rice waxy gene	
J. Hua, Z. Y. Wang, J. L. Zhang and M. M. Hong	195
Studies on wheat HMW glutenin gene	
X. Hua, Y. Jiang, K. Gao, Q. Gu, X. Jiang, W. Huang and C. R. Sun	200
Integration of RFLP and conventional linkage maps in rice	
O. Ideta, A. Yoshimura, H. Tsunematsu, T. Matsumoto and N. Iwata	204
Genetic engineering of Chinese potato cultivars by introducing antibacterial polypeptide gene	
S. R. Jia, Y. Xie, T. Tang, L. X. Feng, D. S. Cao, Y. L. Zhao, J. Yuan, Y. Y. Bai, C. X. Jiang, J. M. Jaynes and J. D. Dodds	208
Homeotic mutations and flower development in <i>Petunia</i>	
A. Kush, A. Brunelle, U. Halfter, A. van der Krol, J. Stockhaus and N. H. Chua	213
The regulation of light and protein:synthesis inhibitors of gene expression of rubisco and rubisco subunit binding protein	
L. R. Li, G. Y. Chen and Y. G. Miao	217
Progress in RFLP gene tagging and marker-aided selection	
S. R. McCouch	221
Rice chromosome mapping by using reciprocal translocations and tertiary trisomics	
K. I. Nonomura, A. Yoshimura, N. Kishimoto and N. Iwata	229
Genetic transformation of potato with <i>Bacillus thuringiensis</i> HD73 cryia(C) gene and development of insect resistant plants	
M. B. Sticklen, R. V. Ebor, J. P. Cheng, M. M. Ebor M. G. Bolyard, R. C. Saxena and D. L. Miller	233

A microcomputer program package MAPL for automatic construction of RFLP linkage maps	
Y. Ukai, R. Ohsawa and A. Saito	237
Identification of wheat-wheatgrass translocation lines by RAPD analysis	
B. Wang, S. T. Li, Z. T. Zhang, X. Bao and B. Q. Huang	240
Expression of a rice sulfur-rich 10kDa prolamin gene in <i>E.coli</i>	
X. M. Xu, Y. Fan, M. M. Yu	245
Tagging genes for bacterial blight resistance in rice by RFLP and RAPD markers	
S. Yoshimura, A. Yoshimura, R. Nelson, T. W. Mew and N. Iwata	250
Patterns of restriction fragment length polymorphisms in corn, barley and rice	
Q. F. Zhang and M. A. Saghai Marool	254
Tagging rice blast resistance genes to RFLP markers	
K. L. Zheng, B. Shen and H. R. Qian	258
Analysis of activity of rice actin 15' sequences in transgenic creeping bentgrass(<i>Agrostis palustris</i> Huds.)	
H. Zhong, M. G. Bolyard, C. Srinivasan and M. B. Sticklen	261
Plant Cell and Tissue Culture	
Biotechnological control of plant sexual reproduction and its application to plant breeding	
T. Adachi	265
Somaclonal variation in plants regenerated from rice callus-submergence tolerance and other agronomic characters	
S.W.Adkins	269
A new breeding line of tobacco selected by somatic hybridization between <i>N.tabacum</i> and <i>N.rustica</i>	
G. Z. Bu, M. L. Gong, C. M. Ding and S. M. Yao	273
Studies on the propagules used for artificial seeds	
Z. H. Chen, Y. G. Yao, Y. L. Guan, W. J. Qian, D. T. Lin and G. Z. Liu	279
Plant regeneration through somatic embryogenesis from suspension cultures derived protoplasts of 6 cotton cultivars(<i>Gossypium hirsutum</i> L.)	
Z. X. Chen, J. M. She, J. Y. Wu, S. J. Li and J. X. Yue	283
The effects of carbon sources on pollen embryo development and plant regeneration in <i>Triticum aestivum</i> L.	
C. C. Chu	287
Studies on medicinal products from panax ginseng cell culture	
J. Y. Ding, Q. Chen, B. J. Xiang and X. He	291
Rescue and characterization of aged seeds by embryoculture	
C. Z. Fan and Y. S. Ma	296
Rapid clonal propagation of Chinese medicinal herbs by tissue culture	
T. G. Gau, D. D. Chang, Y. C. Chern, C. C. Chen, F. T. Yeh, Y. S. Chang, M. T. Hsieh, N. Y. Chu and H. S. Tsay	300
Practical application of somatic embryogenesis synthetic seed system	
M. Hayashi	305
Selection of NaCl-tolerant variant of <i>Setaria italica</i> via tissue culture technique and its physiological and biochemical characteristics	
J. F. Jia, W. Lu and X. S. Zhao	309
Transmission of extra chromosomes and its effects on anther culture in rice trisomic plants	
H. J. Koh, M. H. Heh and G. S. Lee	313

Ultrastructural characteristics of the embryogenic callus cells of American ginseng	
Z. S. Li, Z. C. Guo and Y. Q. Qian	317
Induction on regeneration of floral organs and sexual organs	
W. L. Lu	321
Breeding of Indica two-line hybrid rice	
X. G. Lu, T. M. Mou, X. G. Zhang, J. X. Zhou, W. H. Zhou and C. H. Li	324
Production of polyphenols in cultured tissues of cocoa, <i>Theobroma cacao</i>	
M. Marziah, K. D. N. Iyer and R. Muse	328
Molecular stage in somatic hybrids among gramineous and leguminous species	
M. Niizeki, S. Nakajo, R. Ishikawa, T. Harada and K. Saito	332
<i>In vitro</i> inoculation of <i>Asparagus</i> with conidial suspension and culture filtrate of <i>Fusarium oxysporum</i> schlect f.asparagt	
A. R. Nik Norulaini	336
The regulatory role of ethylene on cell differentiation and growth of mustard plants <i>in vitro</i>	
E. C. Pua and G. L. Chi	344
Studies on the selection of pollen plants from anther culture of autotetraploid hybrid rice	
R. Z. Qin, X. P. Guo, W. C. Song and X. Y. Shan	348
Genetic analysis of rice mutants obtained by anther culture	
T. Shimada, M. Yamagishi, M. Otani, T. Koba, M. Takamura and H. Niizeki	353
Efficient production of pollen embryoids and doubled-haploid plants via anther culture of maize	
J. C. Song, L. J. Jiang, S. Y. Wang, D. Barloy and M. Beckert	357
The effect of thermo-photoperiod for donor plant growth on anther culture of indica rice	
Z. X. Sun, H. M. Si, X. Y. Zhan and S. H. Chen	361
Effects of various concentrations of sucrose on growth and proline accumulation in oil palm polyembryogenic cultures	
A. H. Tarmizi, M. Marziah and A. H. Halim	365
Changes in leaves and anthers of Hubei photoperiod-sensitive genic male-sterile rice induced by photoperiods	
Z. Tong, T. Wang, C. Q. Tang, Y. J. Zhao, and D. C. Peng	369
<i>In vitro</i> flowering of orchid (<i>Dendrobium candidum</i>)	
G. Y. Wang, Z. H. Xu, T. F. Chia and N. H. Chua	373
<i>In vitro</i> morphogenesis and its hormonal control in tissue cultures of <i>Freesia refracta</i>	
L. Wang, B. Huang, M. He and S. Hao	379
Chromosome variation of <i>Triticeae</i> via anther culture	
Y. B. Wang and H. Hu	383
Protoplast culture and plant regeneration of grain legumes	
Z. M. Wei and Z. H. Xu	387
Study on enhancing the frequency of plant regeneration from rice (<i>Oryza sativa</i> L.) protoplasts via direct and indirect embryogenesis	
H. X. Wu, C. J. Yan, Q. S. Yan and X. Q. Zhang	391
Somatic hybridization between tobacco (<i>Nicotiana tabacum</i> L.) and black nightshade (<i>Solanum nigrum</i> L.) and selection of a new strain 694-L	
Z. A. Xia, X. S. Wan, F. D. Wang, X. F. Ye, F. N. Liu, X. M. Chang, S. C. Wang and Y. L. Li	395

High frequency of plantlet regeneration from protoplast of rice (<i>Oryza sativa</i> L.)cultured on modified simple medium	
Y. B. Xiang	399
Regeneration of plants from protoplasts of <i>Sorghum vulgare</i>	
Z. H. Xu and Z. M. Wei	403
Regeneration of plants from protoplasts of barley (<i>Hordeum vulgare</i> L.)	
Q. S. Yan, X. Q. Zhang, J. B. Shi and J. M. Li	407
Hybrid papaya artificial seed production for experimental field	
K. N. Ye, J. C. Huang and B. J. Li	411
Anti-idiotypic antibodies:probes for abscisic acid receptor	
N. G. Zhang, X. Zhou and Z. F. Zheng	414
Transfer of rye genes to wheat via chromosome manipulation and anther culture	
W. J. Zhang, Y. X. Wen, Y. M. Liang, R. X. Wei and H. Hu	418
<i>In vitro</i> culture of several tropical crops and its further application	
X. Q. Zheng	423

Plant-Microbe Interaction

Regulation of the production of plant cell wall degrading enzymes in the bacterial plant pathogen, <i>Erwinia carotovora</i> subsp. <i>carotovora</i>	
A. K. Chatterjee, H. Murata, Y. Liu and A. Chatterjee	426
Symbiotic genes of <i>Azorhizobium caulinodans</i> , a bacterium that nodulates <i>Sesbania rostrata</i>	
M. Holsters, D. Geelen, P. Mergaert, M. Gao, M. van Montagu and K. Goethals	430
Coordinate regulation of B-carotene biosynthesis and developmental and adaptive processes in <i>Dunaliella bardawil</i>	
H. Levy, A. Lers and A. Zamir	435
Study of antagonistic proteins of bacteria to <i>Xanthomonas oryzae</i> pv. <i>oryzae</i>	
D. B. Li, W. G. Zhu, W. L. Chen, X. F. Chen, P. Xu, Y. P. Zhang and Q. X. Ge	439
Oxidative stress response in <i>Xanthomonas oryzae</i>	
S. Mongkolsuk, N. Supsamran, K. Kruwal and S. Chamnongpol	444
Enhanced biological control of wheat take-all by using <i>in vivo</i> genetically engineered <i>Pseudomonas fluorescens</i>	
Y. F. Peng, Z. G. Zhang, D. F. Huang, C. C. Chen and J. Zhang	449
Exopolysaccharide-deficient mutants of <i>Rhizobium astragalus</i> that fail to effectively nodulate	
H. Y. Song, B. G. Long, J. H. Wang, B. L. Yu, Z. Hua and H. C. Chen	453
A novel dominant drug resistance marker for transformation of <i>Pyricularia oryzae</i>	
Q. Z. Tao, M. Kimura and I. Yamaguchi	457
Molecular genetic analysis on pathogenicity of <i>Xanthomonas campestris</i> pv. <i>oryzae</i> (XCO)	
J. S. Wang, C. Y. He and X. H. Li	462
<i>Alcaligenes</i> -host plant interaction	
C. B. You, W. Song, M. Lin, W. L. Hai, J. P. Li and Y. T. Wang	468

Animal Biotechnology

- In vitro* development and cryopreservation of IVM-IVF bovine oocytes
 Bou Shorgan, H. W. Chan, Y. F. Pang, S. L. Zhang, X. X. Xue,
 D. J. Liu, Q. L. Hai and B. Siqin 474
- An ovine metallothionein-pig somatotropin fusion gene promotes growth in
 transgenic rabbits and pigs
 Y. F. Chen, Y. F. Dai, A. X. Lin, D. Chen, C. X. Wei,
 Z. C. Zhang and M. An 479
- Changes of fecal and plasma progesterone levels in swamp buffalo cows
 (*Bubalus bubalis*) during the estrous cycle and pregnancy
 J. H. Lin, S. S. Chang, J. C. Huang, L. S. Wu, H. C. Jou, L. C. Liou,
 C. C. Su, I. C. Shih and E. Bamberg 483
- Development and recombinant porcine growth hormone
 S. Z. Qi 489
- Induction of the tetraploids of the Chinese shrimp (*Penaeus chinensis*)
 J. H. Xiang, L. H. Zhou, R. Y. Liu, J. Z. Zhu, F. H. Li, X. H. Li and
 X. D. Liu 496

Minireview

- Plant regeneration from protoplasts of higher plants in China
 X. H. Li 502

Workshop summary

- Integrated application of biotechnology in crop improvement
 M. S. Swaminathan 510

Conclusion remarks

- L. S. Lu 513

Index

515

Agricultural Biotechnology in China

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It is well known that China has made remarkable progress in agriculture, feeding 22% of the world population with only 7% of world arable land. However, with the increase of population and rise in people's living standards, more and better quality agricultural production and improvement of people's health status, the National Planning Commission and the National Committee of Science and Technology of China has listed biotechnology as one of the projects in the national "Seventh Five Year Plan" since early eighties. Since 1986, biotechnology has been classified as a key project in the High-tech Program (usually called the "863" Program because it was approved in March 1986) and in the programs of the National Natural Science Foundation. According to the statistics, during the period of "Seventh Five Year Plan" (1986-1990), about 3500 Chinese scientists were engaged in biotechnological research, some 40% of them were involved in agricultural biotechnology. The proportion of agricultural biotechnology has been further increased in the period of "Eighth Five Year Plan" (1991-1995).

There are mainly ten items of biotechnological research results which were applied and will be applied in production during the past ten years and in the next five years.

1. Virus-free Meristem Culture and Micropropagation

The plants used for micropropagation and induction of virus-free seedlings included potato, banana, kiwi fruit (*Actinidia chinensis*), apple, citrus, grape, Chinese flowering crabapple (*Malus lumi*), poplar as well as flowering plants. Some of them have been applied in production.

During the period of "Sixth Five Year Plan", the systems and net work of virus-free potato propagation were established jointly by the Institute of Botany, the Institute of Zoology and the Institute of Microbiology, the Chinese Academy of Science (CAS) and Inner Mongolia University. By 1984, the virus-free potato

had been released and planted on 68000 hectares with an average yield of 3750 kg per hectare (with an increase of 50%). By 1990, a three-level system of virus-free potato propagation had been established in many provinces, and the cultivated area of virus-free potato reached more than 265000 hectares, accounting for 10% of the total area of potato cultivation in China.

During the period of "Seventh Five Year Plan", Xinhui County and Shunde County of Guangdong Province set up factories for micropropagation of superior banana varieties, with technical assistance from South China Institute of Botany, CAS, they produce 5-6 million test-tube plants per year. Such banana plants gave a yield of 25% higher than the suckers of local varieties. In order to further improve the quality of stock plantlets, it is planned to promote the development of techniques for fast virus identification in the future. A similar facility has been established in Luancheng County, Hebei Province for producing one million poplar plantlets per year. This work has done by Shijiazhuang Institute of Agricultural Modernization, CAS. In recent years, they produced test-tube plants of a Chinese flowering crabapple variety "Zhumei", which can be used as salt tolerant stock for apple and is proved that it grows well in coastal soil containing 0.4-0.6% salt. Through the field test in the areas of Hebei, Shandong and Tianjin in large scale (18 thousand plants), over three hundred thousand plants would be released in 1992. In addition, production system of virus-free apple stock center and 22 stock nurseries were established in Xincheng Institute of Fruit Tree, Liaoning Province. The virus-free plants of gladiolus, orchid and carnation are now commercially produced.

2. Anther Culture and Haploid Breeding

Since Guha and Maheshwari first induced successfully haploid pollen plant from *Datura innoxia* in 1964, pollen plants of wheat were first induced by the Institute of Genetics, CAS in 1971. Since then, haploid plants have been induced from more than 40 species, such as corn, rubber tree, apple, poplar and ginseng, which has greatly promoted the development of haploid breeding in China. By 1986, more than 20 new superior crop varieties had been developed by using anther culture method. For example, new rice varieties with high yield, good quality and rice blast-resistance, Zhong Hua #8, #9, #10 and #11 have been developed by the Institute of Crop Science of Chinese Academy of

Agriculture Sciences (CAAS), and they have been released in Beijing area. The superior wheat varieties Jing Hua #1, #3, and #5 have been developed by Beijing Academy of Agricultural Sciences, and they have been released on more than 650 thousand hectares.

3. Plant Breeding by Chromosome Engineering and wide Hybridization

Chromosome engineering of plants has been listed as a key project by National Committee of Science and Technology since 1981. After ten years' effort, a great progress has been made in this field. A large number of new varieties and lines of wheat have been developed, such as octoploid triticale (The Institute of Crop Science, CAAS), Octoploid Agrotriticum (Shanxi Academy of Agricultural Sciences), alien addition lines with two sets of chromosomes from *Agropyron* (Northeast Teachers University), alien addition lines with chromosomes from *Haynaldia* (Nanjing Agricultural University), seven kinds of blue-grained monosomic and self-fertile nullisomic wheat (Northwest Institute of Botany, Shijiazhuang Institute of Agricultural Modernization and Institute of Genetics, CAS), one set of "Abbondanza" monosomic and 18 kinds of self-fertile nullisomic wheat (Shaanxi Academy of Agricultural Sciences), one set of monosomic derived from a wheat variety, Yangzhou #1 (Shanghai Teachers University), one set of monosomic derived from a winter wheat variety, Fengkang #13 (The Institute of Crop Science, CAAS) and translocation lines with resistance to yellow leaf virus derived from *Agropyron* (the Institute of Crop Sciences, CAAS). The superior wheat variety "Xiaoyan #6" was developed by combining wide hybridization (*Triticum aestivum* and *Agropyron elongatum* 10x) and chromosome engineering technique (Northwest Institute of Botany, CAS). By 1988, it had been released on 3.6 million hectares, and 1.6 billion kg of wheat had been increased.

In addition, a new cotton variety "Aizhao #1" was developed by crossing upland cotton (*Gossypium hirsutum* n=26) with asiatic cotton (*G. arboreum*, n=13). It has a short life cycle and can be sown after wheat harvest in summer and harvest in autumn, making a good use of land for both food crops and cotton with a yield ginned cotton of about 750 kg per hectare and good fibre quality. This new variety is now beginning to be cultivated in Shandong and Henan Provinces.