
Preface

We feel delighted to bring out this volume entitled *Value Addition of Horticultural Crops: Recent Trends and Future Directions*. Value addition is both the science and art of transforming a production into a product. The connotation ‘value addition’ receives a new dimension, whenever prefixed or suffixed with ‘horticulture’. Horticultural crops being different in nature as compared to agricultural ones pose a considerable challenge to the stakeholders in various stages, right from production to processing. Knowingly or unknowingly, the process of value addition is on since time immemorial, and thanks to the technological grooming that it is receiving currently, the horizon of our imagination is getting wider and wider.

The book with comprehensive coverage on the subject is a state-of-the-art compilation of background information, principles, research works, and scientific discussion coupled with adequate references on basic and applied aspects on the subject. The main features of the book is an in-depth narration of the scope of quality horticultural crops as a product in influencing present-day global export market arising out of renewed interest in these crops throughout the world. The book will also take care of the rational scientific approaches to post-harvest management of quality horticultural crops. It covers the traditional as well as present-day techniques, along with judicious blending of environment, society, technology and market compulsions in related areas viz., biodiversity, microbiology, ecology, biotechnology and the past as well future knowledge base regarding the subject of interest.

We would like to convey our deep appreciation to all the contributors and well wishers, especially Prof. K.V. Peter, who has been kind enough to write the foreword for the book. Dr. Mamta Kapila and her team from Springer deserve all praise for their best efforts in publishing the book.

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Amit Baran Sharangi
Suchand Datta

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Sharangi, A.B.; Datta, S. (Eds.)

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