



Recent Advances in **ROOT AND TUBER CROPS**

Root and tuber crops (RTCs) were first domesticated several thousand years ago and eventually became a staple food for the poorest farmers and households of the tropical and subtropical countries. Currently, RTCs serve as staple food (either primary form or modified form) for more than 2.2 billion population across the globe. RTCs are the third most important food crops after cereals and legumes. Potato along with cassava, sweet potato and yams rank among the top 15 crop plants of the world concerning cropping area. Potato is found in almost every household of the globe. Cassava is the most important root and tuber crop in the tropics where it is a primary staple food in many of the poorest countries, and the sweet potato is also a food staple in Asia, Africa and America. Yams are also important staple food crops in tropical and subtropical regions. Although Taro and Cocoyam are minor crops, they do provide staple food for poor people in Africa, Asia and America. Apart from the food source, RTCs serve as animal feed and fuel source. Conventional breeding methods have succeeded in improving productivity but modern breeding techniques have succeeded in reducing the breeding cycle to some extent. The proposed book also deals with the advance plant production systems, plant protection technologies and post-harvest management aspects of important root and tuber crops: potato (*Solanum tuberosum* L.), cassava (*Manihot esculenta* Crantz), sweet potato (*Ipomoea batatas* (L.) Lam.), yams (*Dioscorea* spp.), elephant foot yam (*Amorphophallus paeoniifolius* (Dennst.) Nicolson), taro (*Colocasia esculenta* (L.) Schott.) and tannia/cocoyam (*Xanthosoma sagittifolium* (L.) Schott.) covered in 22 chapters. The book will be of value both to students and scientific personnel, as well as to anyone interested in this fascinating group of root and tuber crops. Chapters have been written by experts on the crops with wide knowledge.

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