

1. Record Nr.	UNINA9910253907003321
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Titolo	Amaranthus: A Promising Crop of Future // by Saubhik Das
Pubbl/distr/stampa	Singapore : , : Springer Singapore : , : Imprint : Springer, , 2016
ISBN	981-10-1469-8
Edizione	[1st ed. 2016.]
Descrizione fisica	1 online resource (IX, 208 p. 50 illus., 27 illus. in color.)
Disciplina	578.012 578.09
Soggetti	Plant systematics Plant taxonomy Plant breeding Plant physiology Agriculture Plant Systematics/Taxonomy/Biogeography Plant Breeding/Biotechnology Plant Physiology
Lingua di pubblicazione	Inglese
Formato	Materiale a stampa
Livello bibliografico	Monografia
Nota di contenuto	1. Introduction -- 2. Pseudo-cereals: an efficient food supplement -- 3. Amaranths: the crop of great prospect -- 4. Infrageneric classification of Amaranthus -- 5. Taxonomy and phylogeny of amaranths -- 6. Weed and Herbicide resistance -- 7. Distribution and maintenance of amaranth germplasm world-wide -- 8. Breeding of amaranth -- 9. Evolution of sexuality in Amaranthus -- 10. Cultivation of Amaranthus -- 11. Future prospects in amaranth research.
Sommario/riassunto	This book serves the larger community of plant researchers working on the taxonomy, species delimitation, phylogeny, and biogeography of pseudo-cereals, with a special emphasis on amaranths. It also provides extensive information on the nutritive value of underutilized pseudo-cereals, the goal being to broaden the vegetable list. Amaranthus is a cosmopolitan genus of annual or short-lived perennial plants. Most of the species are summer annual weeds and are commonly referred to as pigweed. Only a few are cultivated as vitamin-rich vegetables and

ornamentals. The protein-rich seeds of a handful of species, known as grain amaranths, are consumed as pseudo-cereals. *Amaranthus* manifests considerable morphological diversity among and even within certain species, and there is no general agreement on the taxonomy or number of species. Currently the genus *Amaranthus* is believed to include three recognized subgenera and 70 species. *Amaranthus* is considered to potentially offer an alternative crop in temperate and tropical climate. The classification of amaranths is ambiguous due to the lack of discrete and quantitative species-defining characteristics and the wide range of phenotypic plasticity, as well as introgression and hybridization involving weedy and crop species. It is a known fact that both vegetable and grain amaranths have evolved from their respective weed progenitors. There are more than 180 different weed species that are herbicide-resistant, and amaranths are considered to be leading members of the resistant biotypes. *Amaranthus* species provide ample scope for investigating herbicide resistance mechanisms. *Amaranthus* also show variability in terms of their mating behavior and germplasm, adaptability to different growing conditions, and wide range of variability in sexual systems, from monoecy to dioecy. A solid grasp of these parameters is essential to the future utilization of amaranths as super crops. There are quite a few *amaranthus* research center and germplasm collections all over the world that maintain and evaluate working germplasms. To date, the genetic improvement of amaranths has primarily involved the application of conventional selection methods. But advances in genomics and biotechnology have dramatically enriched the potential to manipulate the *amaranthus* genome, especially improving the amount and availability of nutrients. In conclusion, the book covers all aspects of amaranths, including their food value, significance as vegetables and pseudo-cereals, taxonomy, phylogeny, germplasm variability, breeding behavior and strategies, cultivation practices, and variability in terms of their sexual systems. It offers a valuable resource for all students, researchers and experts working in the field of plant taxonomy and diversity.
