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| Descrizione fisica | 1 online resource (348 p.) |
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| Nota di bibliografia | Includes bibliographical references (p. 287-318) and index. |
| Nota di contenuto | Front matter -- Contents -- List of Tables and Figures -- Preface -- Acknowledgments -- 1. Encountering Crop Diversity -- 2. A Naturalist's View of Crop Diversity -- 3. The Measure of Crop Diversity -- 4. Crop and Society in Centers of Diversity -- 5. The Ethnoecology of Crop Diversity in Andean Potato Agriculture -- 6. The Farmer's Place in Crop Evolution: Selection and Management -- 7. Genetic Erosion of Crop Populations in Centers of Diversity: A Revision -- 8. The Ecology of Crop Diversity -- 9. Maintaining Crop Diversity On-Farm and Off -- 10. Rights over Genetic Resources and the Demise of the Biological Commons -- 11. Locating Crop Diversity in the Contemporary World -- Bibliography -- Index |
| Sommario/riassunto | Biological diversity is as crucial in agriculture as it is in nature, and it is equally important to the economic health of both industrial and nonindustrial societies. This book offers a sweeping assessment of crop diversity and the potential for its preservation. Stephen B. Brush develops a framework for investigating biological diversity in agriculture that focuses on the knowledge and practice of farmers, and he shows how this human ecology perspective can be applied to three global issues that affect crop resources. Brush defines the dimensions |

of crop diversity and outlines the essential questions surrounding it. He describes the techniques used to maintain diversity in major crops of three cradles of agriculture in which he has worked: potatoes in the Peruvian Andes, maize in Mexico, and wheat in Turkey. Finally, he explores the policy issues surrounding genetic erosion of crop varieties, conservation of crop diversity, and ownership of genetic resources.
