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Nota di bibliografia	Includes bibliographical references (p. 288-390) and index.
Nota di contenuto	Early human societies and their plants -- Plant management and agriculture -- How some people became farmers -- Plant genomes -- Fluid genomes, uncertain species, and the genetics of crop domestication -- The domestication of cereal crops -- The domestication of non-cereal crops -- People and the emergence of crops -- Agriculture : a mixed blessing -- Evolution of agrourban cultures : I The Near East -- Evolution of agrourban cultures : II south and east Asia -- Evolution of agrourban cultures : III Africa, Europe, and the Americas -- Crop management in the classical and medieval

periods -- Agricultural improvement and the rise of crop breeding -- Imperial botany and the early scientific breeders -- Agricultural improvement in modern times -- The future of agriculture and humanity.

Sommario/riassunto

This book provides a comprehensive interdisciplinary overview of human-plant interactions and their social consequences from the hunter-gatherers of the Palaeolithic Era to the 21st century molecular manipulation of crops. It links the latest advances in molecular genetics, climate research and archaeology to give a new perspective on the evolution of agriculture and complex human societies across the world. Even today, our technologically advanced societies still rely on plants for basic food needs, not to mention clothing, shelter, medicines and tools. This special relationship has tied together