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Uses; 3.8 High Lysine Corn; 3.9 Vitamin Content: Golden Rice; 3.10 Fungal Resistance; 3.11 Drought, Heat and Cold Tolerance; Climate Change; 3.12 Salt Tolerance; 3.13 Biopharming; 3.14 Removal of Allergens; 3.15 Conclusions; 4. Legislation Covering GM Crops and Foods; 4.1 Safety of GM Plants Grown in Containment; 4.2 Safety of Field Releases of GM Plants; 4.3 Safety of GM Foods; 4.4 European Union Regulations; 4.5 Labelling and Traceability Regulations; 4.6 Safety Assessment and Labelling Requirements in the USA
5. Issues that have Arisen in the GM Crop and Food Debate5.1 Are GM Foods Safe?; 5.2 Will Genetic Modification Produce New Food Allergens?; 5.3 Is it Ethical to Transfer Genes Between Different Species?; 5.4 Animal Studies; 5.5 GM Crops 'Do Not Work'; 5.6 Did Tryptophan Produced by Genetic Modification Kill People?; 5.7 The Monarch Butterfly; 5.8 The Pusztai Affair; 5.9 Alarm Caused by Contradictory Results of Biosafety Studies; 5.10 'Superweeds'; 5.11 Insect Resistance to Bt Crops; 5.12 Segregation of GM and non-GM Crops: Co-existence of GM and Organic Farming
5.13 Antibiotic Resistance Marker Genes 5.14 Patenting; 5.15 Loss of Genetic Diversity; 5.16 The Dominance of Multinational Companies; 5.17 The StarLink and ProdiGene Affairs; 5.18 The Cauliflower mosaic virus 35S RNA Gene Promoter; 5.19 Implications for Developing Countries; 5.20 'Terminator' Technology; 5.21 Unintentional Releases; 5.22 Asynchronous Approvals; 5.23 The United Kingdom Farm-Scale Evaluations; 5.24 Conclusions; Index

Sommario/riassunto

Plant molecular biology came to the fore in the early 1980's and there has been tremendous growth in the subject since then. The study of plant genes and genomes and the development of techniques for the incorporation of novel or modified genes into plants eventually led to the commercialisation of genetically modified (GM) crops in the mid-1990's. This was seen as the start of a biotechnological revolution in plant breeding. However, plant biotechnology has become one of the hottest debates of the age and, in Europe at least, one of the greatest challenges that plant scientists have ever faced.
