Biosafety of Transgenic Rice. 2005.

Chopra, V.L., S. Shantharam and R.P. Sharma (Eds)., National Academy of Agricultural Sciences, (NAAS), New Delhi, India. 237 pages. Rs. 500.00.

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The present book explores the potentialities of genetic engineering as a powerful tool for crop



improvement. It mainly provides a broad overview of the recent advancements of transgenic rice' which have opened up new avenues for harnessing the process of developing designer crops for meeting both food and nutritional requirement of the human beings.

The book contains edited papers along with the recommendations presented in the Rice Biosafety Workshop, 2002, sponsored by Syngenta International, Switzerland and NAAS, India. It basically brings together representatives from industry, academia, and other stakeholders to discuss various issues and concerns regarding commercialization of transgenic rice. Despite the production of more than a dozen transgenic rice' varieties and introduction of genes for herbicide tolerance and pest resistance by a large number of research laboratories in India as well as in both developed and developing countries, not even a single transgenic rice has been released for commercial production for various reasons.

The book includes extensive wealth of information about the development of genetically engineered rice and raises an important issue regarding the urgent need to develop consensus on scope and limitations for the commercialization of transgenic technology.