



## BOOK REVIEW

**Frontiers in mushroom biotechnology.** R. D. Rai, R. C. Upadhyay and S. R. Sharma. 2005. National Research Centre for Mushroom, Indian Council of Agricultural Research, Chambaghat, Solan, India. 430 pp, illus. No ISBN.

The commercial production of edible mushrooms in India has been estimated to be in excess of 70,000 tons per year. This is a high amount, considering that mushroom cultivation in this country started recently, in the mid 1960's, in the region of Solan. Basic and applied research has been fundamental for the fast development of the local mushroom industry. In fact, it was at Solan where the National Research Centre for Mushroom (NRCM) was set up in 1983 by the Indian Council of Agricultural Research. Many research and extension achievements have been developed in areas such as crop improvement, crop production, crop protection, postharvest technology, and training/advisory work. The NRCM has recently published this interesting book containing a compilation of 38 papers from lectures held at the Summer School on Emerging Areas of Mushroom Research and Production in 2003. Many aspects of mushroom biotechnology are covered, from wild mushrooms to strain isolation, preservation, and improvement; compost/substrate formulations and preparation; spawning, casing, fruiting and crop management; mushroom farm designs; application of electronics in mushroom production; postharvest management; mushroom marketing; nutritive value of mushrooms; technology transfer; and pests, diseases, and abiotic disorders. The book contains papers on *Agaricus bisporus*, *A. bitorquis*, *Volvariella* spp., *Calocybe indica*, *Lentinula edodes*, and *Auricularia* spp. One of the interesting and useful papers deals with sources of information on mushroom cultivation, although it would be important for the next edition to get this section updated. For example, *Micologia Aplicada International* ([www.micaplint.com](http://www.micaplint.com)) is not mentioned in the proper section. A full reference list at the end of every paper, as well as author and subject indexes would also be very useful to encourage readers. This book is certainly welcome, as it will be important not only in coming summer courses, but also for scholars, students, and the development of the Indian mushroom industry.

**D. Martínez-Carrera, Mexico**

Further book information:

Dr. R. P. Tewari, Director  
National Research Centre for Mushroom  
Chambaghat, Solan 173216, H.P.  
India

---