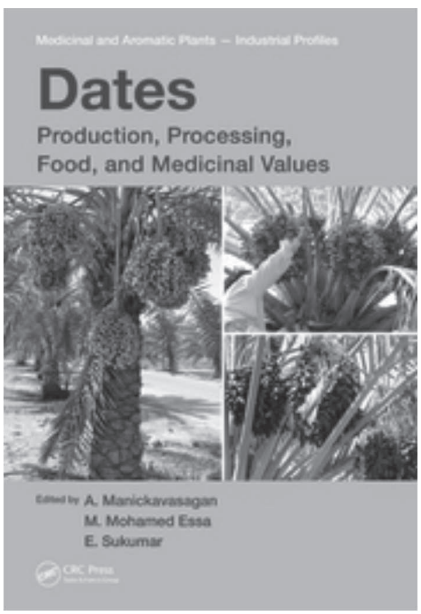
Dates: Production, Processing, Food, and Medicinal Values

A. Manickavasagan, M.M. Essa, E. Sukumar (Eds.)



Of the many varieties of date palms, the species *Phoenix dactylifera* Linn. is cultivated extensively and traded and consumed worldwide. This book explores a range of essential facets of what many consider to be a wonder plant, from its cultivation to its potential for medicinal purposes. Divided into four parts, it begins by examining cultural practices and their implications for date quality. The contributors discuss tissue culture studies, farm water management, mechanization approaches in pollination and harvesting operations, and marketing aspects. The second section focuses on postharvest operations such as drying and explores alternatives for methyl bromide fumigation and value-added products. It also reviews biofuel production from by-products and discusses the issue of waste generated from industry. The third part of the book highlights the physical, chemical, and structural characteristics of dates. It reviews fermentative products that use dates as substrate, discusses the fruits as a substitute for added sugar in food, and explores date palm feeding to livestock. The final section discusses the possibilities for nutritional and medicinal use and reviews the use of dates in indigenous medicine.
CRC Press (Taylor & Francis Group), series: Medicinal and Aromatic Plants - Industrial Profiles, 2012, English, 442 p., Hardback, ISBN-13: 978-1-4398-4945-3, £89.00, eBook ISBN: 978-1-4398-4947-7
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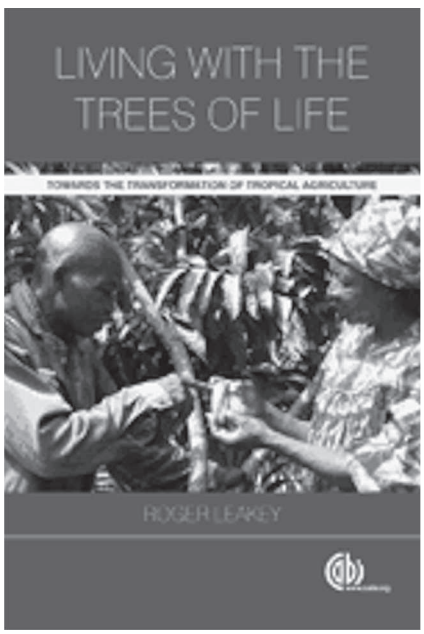
Living with the Trees of Life Towards the Transformation of Tropical Agriculture

Roger R. Leakey



This book presents the experiences of real life situations in rural villages of remote and distant places. *Living with the Trees of Life* demonstrates how the multi-disciplinary science of agroforestry, which embraces biology, genetics, ecology, agronomy, horticulture, forestry, soil science, food science, and the social sciences, can offer hope from the doom and gloom often emanating from the tropics. Written in an accessible and engaging style that will appeal to both a professional and general readership, this book takes a more positive approach to the issues facing agriculture and highlights an innovative approach to resolving the big issues of poverty, malnutrition, hunger and environmental degradation including climate change.
• Readership: Students and researchers within agroforestry, agriculture, natural resources and international development. Also the socially and environmentally aware public.
• Contents: Revelations in Kumba; The Big Global Issues; Journeys of Discovery in Agroforestry; Diversity and Function in Farming Systems; Finding the Trees of Life; Selecting the Best Trees; Vegetative Propagation; Case Studies from the Pacific; Marketing Tree Products; Redirecting Agriculture - Going Multifunctional; Multifunctional Agriculture - Proof of Concept; The Convenient Truths.
CAB international, July 2012, 224 p., ISBN-10: 178064-098-6, ISBN-13: 978-178064-098-3, £27.50 / US$52.50 / 35.00
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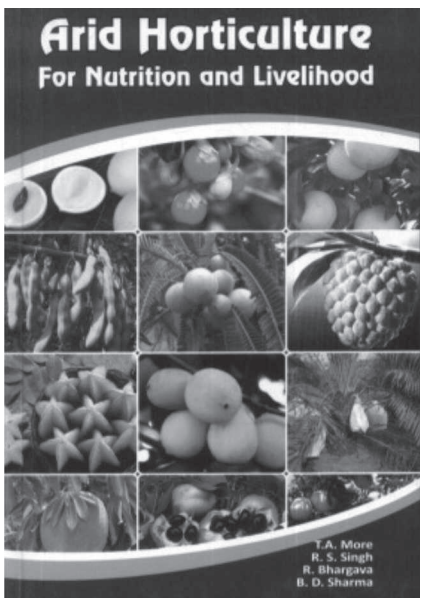
Arid Horticulture for Nutrition and Livelihood

T.A. More, R.S. Singh, R. Bhargava, B.D. Sharma (Eds.)



The vast land resource, rich genetic diversity with many land races possessing resistance to biotic and abiotic stresses, animal based farming systems, conducive climatic conditions for production of quality fruits, vegetables and seed spices, opportunity for utilization of solar and wind energy, sufficient working force of family labour, developing infrastructure facilities, etc. are the strength of arid horticulture development. Whereas, extreme of temperature, recurrent droughts, problem of wind erosion, frost during winter, saline underground water, sandy soils, limited growing period, biotic pressure, etc. are the limitations of the region, owing to occasional crop failure. The existing farming practices in the region are less efficient with respect to space and time, hence, it cannot support the livelihood of the inhabitant properly. For nutritional and income security, arid horticulture plays a vital role in semi-arid and arid-regions. Despite the immense potential, arid horticulture has got emphasis very late, as research and development in horticulture were confined earlier to high value crops and resource rich situations. Now, it is realized that integration of arid horticulture in existing farming system can play vital role in diversification of untapped natural resources. Since, the development of arid horticulture is comparatively recent, hence the published literature on this vital subject is scanty. Therefore, an effort has been made to compile the work done so far in the field of arid horticulture with special reference to Indian scenario for nutrition and livelihood.
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