

SPRINGER BRIEFS IN SYSTEMS BIOLOGY

Kareem A. Mosa
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Plant Stress Tolerance

An Integrated Omics Approach

 Springer

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ISSN 2193-4746 ISSN 2193-4754 (electronic)
SpringerBriefs in Systems Biology
ISBN 978-3-319-59377-7 ISBN 978-3-319-59379-1 (eBook)
DOI 10.1007/978-3-319-59379-1

Library of Congress Control Number: 2017943691

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Printed on acid-free paper

This Springer imprint is published by Springer Nature
The registered company is Springer International Publishing AG
The registered company address is: Gewerbestrasse 11, 6330 Cham, Switzerland

Preface

The initial idea for writing this book was formulated during a discussion between us (the book authors) supported by the positive feedback of Dr. Helmy who had already published a book in the “SpringerBriefs in Systems Biology” series. During this discussion, Dr. Helmy shared his experience and introduced the concept of the “SpringerBriefs” series. We then outlined the book proposal and submitted it to the Springer editor Noreen Henson who encouraged and invited us to start working on writing this book for publication in the “SpringerBriefs in Systems Biology” series.

According to the UN DESA report, “World Population Prospects: The 2015 Revision,” the world population is expected to reach 8.5 billion and 9.7 billion by the years 2030 and 2050 respectively (<http://www.un.org/en/development/desa/news/population/2015-report.html>). Therefore, the production of agricultural products may need to be doubled by 2050 in order to meet the required demand for food as a result of the increased population. One of the major focuses in agricultural production research is to understand how plants tolerate unfavorable biotic and abiotic stresses which, therefore, increases the crop yield. In the last two decades, “omics” technologies (such as genomics, transcriptomics, proteomics, and metabolomics) represented a landmark in the development of biological sciences, including plant sciences with novel applications in investigating and improving stress tolerance in plants. This book is specifically tailored to meet the needs of a broader audience, particularly to include postgraduate students and junior researchers in areas such as plant biotechnology, plant omics, system biology, environmental stresses, and bioinformatics. The book is aimed to provide a simple and brief overview of cutting-edge research on “omics” applications in the field of plant sciences, with special focus on different approaches towards plant stress tolerance (including both biotic and abiotic stresses).

The book is divided into four chapters: Chap. 1 introduces the different types of plant stresses (biotic and abiotic) and how plants respond and deal with these stresses. Furthermore, Chap. 2 introduces the omics technologies used to study plant stresses and the bioinformatics platforms associated with these technologies. Chapter 3 provides a general overview of the omics technologies employed to understand biotic stresses with special focus on plant parasitic nematodes as a case

study. Lastly, Chap. 4 discusses different omics technologies utilized with functional genomics approaches to study abiotic stress tolerance mechanisms in plants. In conclusion, this book provides an overview of up to date information for graduate students, junior academic scientists, and researchers on utilizing recent advances in omics technologies in the area of plant stresses.

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Acknowledgments

We must emphatically express our deepest gratitude to the Department of Biotechnology, Al-Azhar University. Special thanks to the godfather of the department, the man who has most influenced and inspired our undergraduate education at Al-Azhar University, Prof. Fawzy El-feky. We are very grateful to Noreen Henson and Patrick Carr from Springer for their great efforts in pushing this project forward and in facilitating the publication of this book. We would also like to express our great thanks to Dr. Suhail Asrar for language editing this whole book. KAM would like to thank the University of Sharjah, UAE, for administrative support. We also thank our families for their patience and support during the preparation of the book.

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April 8, 2017

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