

Mechanism of Plant Hormone Signaling Under

Mechanism of Plant Hormone Signaling Under Stress

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EDITED BY GIRDHAR K. PANDEY

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Cover Image Description

The image presents a holistic view of the functional role of phytohormones. Different classes of plant hormones perform a myriad of functions starting from germination, vegetative, to reproductive phase transition; abiotic and biotic stress responses, defense against pathogens, and senescence. Plant hormones are known to regulate and interact with other hormones and more than one hormone is frequently involved in different signaling pathways, suggesting a mechanistic interplay among them in regulating plant growth, development, and physiological responses.

Mechanism of Plant Hormone Signaling under Stress

Edited by Girdhar K. Pandey

Department of Plant Molecular Biology, University of Delhi South Campus, New Delhi, India

Volume I

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Contents

About the Editor xvList of Contributors xviiPreface xxiii

Part I Action of Phytohormones in Stress 1

1 Auxin as a Mediator of Abiotic Stress Responses	3	
---	---	--

Branka Salopek-Sondi, Iva Pavlović, Ana Smolko, and Dunja Šamec

۱v

- 1.1 Introduction 3
- 1.2 Auxin: A Short Overview of Appearance, Metabolism, Transport, and Analytics *4*
- 1.2.1 De Novo Synthesis 4
- 1.2.2 Reversible and Irreversible Conjugation Pathways 5
- 1.2.3 IBA to IAA Conversion 6
- 1.2.4 Degradation Pathways 6
- 1.2.5 Polar Auxin Transport 7
- 1.2.6 Analytical Methods in Auxin Identification and Quantification 7
- 1.3 How Auxin Homeostasis Shifts with Diverse Abiotic Stresses 9
- 1.3.1 How the Auxin Pool is Affected by Abiotic Stress? 9
- 1.3.2 Transcription of Auxin Metabolic Genes under Abiotic Stress 10
- 1.3.3 What Can We Learn from Functional Analysis Research? 11
- 1.4 How Does Auxin Signaling Respond to Abiotic Stress? 13
- 1.4.1 Brief Overview of Auxin Perception and Signaling *13*
- 1.4.2 Auxin Signaling Attenuation under Stress Conditions: The Importance of miRNA Driven Post-Transcriptional Regulation 14
- 1.5 Auxin and Redox State During Abiotic Stress 15
- 1.6 Auxin-Stress Hormones Crosstalk in Stress Conditions 18
- 1.6.1 Auxin-ABA Crosstalk 18
- 1.6.2 Auxin-JA Crosstalk 19
- 1.6.3 Auxin-Ethylene Crosstalk 20
- 1.6.4 Auxin-SA Crosstalk 20
- 1.7 Promiscuous Protein Players of Plant Adaptation: Biochemical and Structural Views 21

vi Contents

- 1.7.1IAR3 Auxin Amidohydrolase 21
- 1.7.2 GH3 Auxin Conjugate Synthetases 23
- 1.8 Conclusion 24 Acknowledgment 24 References 25

2 Mechanism of Auxin Mediated Stress Signaling in Plants 37

- Lekshmy S, Krishna G.K., Jha S.K., and Sairam R.K.
- Introduction 37 2.1
- Auxin Biosynthesis, Homeostasis, and Signaling 37 2.2
- Auxin Mediated Stress Responses in Model and Crop Plants 40 2.3
- 2.4 Regulation of Root System Architecture under Drought and Nutrient Stresses 41
- 2.5Conclusions and Future Perspectives 45 References 46
- 3 Integrating the Knowledge of Auxin Homeostasis with Stress **Tolerance in Plants** 53
 - Shivani Saini, Isha Sharma, and Pratap Kumar Pati
- 3.1 Introduction 53
- Auxin Biosynthesis and its Role in Plant Stress 53 3.2
- 3.3 Auxin Transport and its Role in Plant Stress 57
- 3.4 Auxin Signaling and its Role in Plant Stress 60
- Auxin Conjugation and Degradation and its Role in Plant Stress 61 3.5
- 3.6 Conclusions 63 References 63

4 Cytokinin Signaling in Plant Response to Abiotic Stresses 71

Nguyen Binh Anh Thu, Xuan Lan Thi Hoang, Mai Thuy Truc, Saad Sulieman, Nauyen Phuong Thao, and Lam-Son Phan Tran

- 4.1 Introduction 71
- 4.2 CK Metabolism 72
- CK Components and Regulatory Functions 72 4.2.1
- 4.2.2 CK Metabolism, Perception, and Signal Transduction 75
- 4.2.2.1 CK Metabolism 75
- CK Perception and Signal Transduction 4.2.2.2 77
- The Components of the CK Signaling Pathway 77 4.3
- The CK Receptor Histidine Kinases 4.3.177
- 4.3.2 Histidine Phosphotransfer Proteins 79
- 4.3.3 **Response Regulators** 80
- 4.4 CK Signaling in Plant Responses to the Abiotic Stresses 81
- 4.5Genetic Engineering of CK Content for Improvement of Plant Tolerance to Abiotic Stresses 82
- 4.6 Conclusions 88 Acknowledgments 88 References 88

- 5 Crosstalk Between Gibberellins and Abiotic Stress Tolerance Machinery in Plants 101 Ashutosh Sharan, Jeremy Dkhar, Sneh Lata Singla-Pareek, and Ashwani Pareek
- 5.1 Introduction 101
- 5.2 Gibberellins: Biosynthesis, Transport, and Signaling *102*
- 5.3 GA Metabolism and Signaling During Abiotic Stress 106
- 5.3.1 Salinity Stress Induces GA2ox and GA20ox Gene Expression 106
- 5.3.2 Reduced GA Confers Tolerance to Drought Stress 111
- 5.3.3 Role of GA in Cold and Heat Stresses *112*
- 5.4 Crosstalk between GA and Other Plant Hormones in Response to Abiotic Stresses *114*
- 5.4.1 Crosstalk between GAs and Ethylene During Abiotic Stress 114
- 5.4.2 Crosstalk Between GAs and Abscisic Acid During Abiotic Stress 115
- 5.4.3 Crosstalk Between GAs and SA During Abiotic Stress 116
- 5.4.4 Crosstalk Between GAs and Jasmonic Acid During Abiotic Stress 116
- 5.5 Applications in Crop Improvement *117*
- 5.5.1 Flower Development 117
- 5.5.2 Fruit Development 118
- 5.5.3 Brewing Industry 118
- 5.6 Conclusion 118 Acknowledgment 119 References 119
- 6 The Crosstalk of GA and JA: A Fine-Tuning of the Balance of Plant Growth, Development, and Defense 127
 - Yuge Li and Xingliang Hou
- 6.1 Introduction 127
- 6.2 GA Pathway in Plants 128
- 6.3 JA Pathway in Plants *129*
- 6.4 GA Antagonizes JA-Mediated Defense 131
- 6.5 JA Inhibits GA-Mediated Growth 133
- 6.6 GA and JA Synergistically Mediate Plant Development 134
- 6.7 Conclusions 136 Acknowledgments 136 References 136

7 Jasmonate Signaling and Stress Management in Plants 143

- Sirhindi Geetika, Mushtaq Ruqia, Sharma Poonam, Kaur Harpreet, and Ahmad Mir Mudaser
- 7.1 Introduction 143
- 7.2 JA Biosynthesis and Metabolic Fate 144
- 7.3 JA Signaling Network 146
- 7.4 Physiological Role of JAs 151
- 7.4.1 JA in Seed Germination 151
- 7.4.2 JA in Root Growth 151
- 7.4.3 JA in Tuber Formation 152
- 7.4.4 JA in Trichome Development 152

viii Contents

- 7.4.5 JA in Flower and Seed Development 153
- 7.4.6 JA in Abscission and Senescence 153
- 7.4.7 JA in Photosynthesis Regulation 154
- 7.4.8 JA in Secondary Metabolism 155
- 7.5 JA Regulated Stress Responses 156
- 7.5.1 JA in Antioxidant Management and Reactive Oxygen Species Homeostasis 156
- 7.5.2 JA in Biotic Stress 157
- 7.5.3 JA in Abiotic Stresses 157
- 7.6 Conclusion 159
 - References 159

8 Mechanism of ABA Signaling in Response to Abiotic Stress in Plants 173

Ankush Ashok Saddhe, Kundan Kumar, and Padmanabh Dwivedi

- 8.1 Introduction 173
- 8.2 Signal Perception and ABA Receptors 175
- 8.3 Negative Regulators of ABA Signaling: Protein Phosphatase 2C (PP2C) 178
- 8.4 Positive Regulators of ABA Signaling: SnRK2 179
- 8.5 ABA Signaling Regulating Transcription Factor 181
- 8.5.1 Basic-Domain Leucine Zipper (bZIP) TF 181
- 8.5.2 AP2/ERF TF 182
- 8.5.3 NAC TF 183
- 8.5.4 WRKY TF 183
- 8.5.5 C₂H₂ ZF TF 184
- 8.5.6 MYB TF 185
- 8.5.7 bHLH TF 185
- 8.6 Crosstalk Between Various ABA Responsive Pathways in Abiotic Stress *186*
- 8.7 Summary and Future Prospects 187 Acknowledgments 188 Abbreviations 188 References 188
- 9 Abscisic Acid Signaling and Involvement of Mitogen Activated Protein Kinases and Calcium-Dependent Protein Kinases During Plant Abiotic Stress 197

Aryadeep Roychoudhury and Aditya Banerjee

- 9.1 Introduction 197
- 9.2 ABA Signaling in Plants 198
- 9.2.1 ABA as a Phytohormone 198
- 9.2.2 ABA Metabolism 199
- 9.2.3 ABA Transport 199
- 9.2.4 ABA Perception and Signal Transduction 201
- 9.2.4.1 ABA Receptors in Signal Transduction 202
- 9.2.4.2 PP2Cs as Negative Regulators of ABA Signaling 203
- 9.2.4.3 SnRK2 Acting as a Global Positive Regulator of ABA Signaling 205

- 9.3 The Signalosome and Signaling Responses Mediated by ABA: Structural Alterations in ABA by PYR/PYL/RCAR 207
- 9.4 Structural Alterations During PP2C Inhibition by ABA 208
- 9.5 The *abi1-1* Mutation Mystery Solved 208
- 9.6 Basic Leucine Zipper (bZIP) TFs in ABA Signaling 209
- 9.7 Mitogen-Activated Protein Kinase (MAPK) Cascades and Regulation of Downstream Signaling 210
- 9.7.1 Relevance and Crosstalk of MAPKs in Plant Abiotic Stresses 212
- 9.7.2 The MAPK Families of Arabidopsis and Rice 212
- 9.7.2.1 Arabidopsis 212
- 9.7.2.2 Rice 213
- 9.7.3 MAPK Cascades Regulating Abiotic Stress Signaling 215
- 9.7.3.1 Salt Stress 215
- 9.7.3.2 Drought Stress 215
- 9.7.3.3 Oxidative Stress 215
- 9.7.3.4 Ozone Stress 216
- 9.7.3.5 Heavy Metal Stress 216
- 9.7.3.6 Temperature Stress 216
- 9.7.3.7 ABA-Induced Activation of MAPKs 216
- 9.8 Calcium Dependent Protein Kinases (CDPKs) 219
- 9.8.1 CDPK Activities 221
- 9.8.1.1 Regulation of CDPK Activity 221
- 9.8.1.2 CDPK in ABA Signaling 221
- 9.8.2 Relevance and Crosstalk of CDPKs in Plant Abiotic Stresses 223
- 9.8.3 CDPKs as Potent Signaling Hubs 224
- 9.9 MAPK-CDPK Crosstalk 225
- 9.10 Conclusion and Future Perspectives 226 Acknowledgments 227 References 227
- 10Abscisic Acid Activates Pathogenesis-Related Defense Gene
Signaling in Lentils243
 - Rebecca Ford, David Tan, Niloofar Vaghefi, and Barkat Mustafa
- 10.1 Plant Host Defense Mechanisms 243
- 10.1.1 Host versus Non-Host Resistance 243
- 10.1.2 Preformed and Induced Defense Responses 244
- 10.1.3 Reactive Oxygen Species (ROS) During an Oxidative Burst 245
- 10.1.4 Hypersensitive Response (HR) 245
- 10.1.5 Systemic Acquired Resistance (SAR) 246
- 10.2 Phytoalexins and Pathogenesis-Related (PR) Proteins 247
- 10.3 The Role of Plant Hormones in Pathogen Defense 247
- 10.3.1 Salicylic Acid 247
- 10.3.2 Jasmonic Acid 248
- 10.3.3 Ethylene 249
- 10.3.4 Abscisic Acid 249
- 10.3.5 Conservation and Crosstalk Within Signaling Pathways 250
- 10.4 The Lentil Ascochyta lentis Pathosystem 251

x Contents

- 10.5 Key Defense-Related Genes Involved in *Ascochyta lentis* Defense 252
- 10.6 The Effect of Exogenous Hormone Treatment on PR4 and PR10 Transcription in Lentils 253
- 10.6.1 Bioassays and cDNA Production 255
- 10.6.2 PR Gene Amplification and Expression Profiling 255
- 10.6.3 Effects of ABA, ACC, MeJA, and SA on Lentil PR4 Gene Expression 256
- 10.6.4 Effects of ABA, ACC, MeJA, and SA on Lentil PR10 Gene Expression 256
- 10.7 Conclusions 259 References 261
- 11 Signaling and Modulation of Non-Coding RNAs in plants by Abscisic Acid (ABA) 271

Raj Kumar Joshi, Swati Megha, Urmila Basu, and Nat N.V. Kav

- 11.1 Introduction 271
- 11.2 Biogenesis of Non-Coding RNAs in Plants 273
- 11.3 Mode of Action of ncRNAs in Plants 274
- 11.3.1 Mechanism of Action in Small RNAs 274
- 11.3.2 Mechanism of Action of lncRNAs 275
- 11.4 ABA Signaling in Plants 276
- 11.4.1 ABA Biosynthesis, Transport, and Catabolism 276
- 11.4.2 ABA Signal Transduction 278
- 11.4.3 *Cis*-Acting Elements and Transcription Factors in ABA-Mediated Gene Expression 278
- 11.4.4 ABA-Mediated Stomatal Closure During Pathogen Attack 280
- 11.5 Non-Coding RNAs and ABA Response 280
- 11.5.1 MiRNAs in ABA Signaling 280
- 11.5.2 Other ncRNAs in ABA Signaling 283
- 11.6 Conclusion and Future Prospects 285
 - References 286
- 12 Ethylene and Stress Mediated Signaling in Plants: A Molecular Perspective 295

Priyanka Agarwal, Gitanjali Jiwani, Ashima Khurana, Pankaj Gupta, and Rahul Kumar

- 12.1 Introduction 295
- 12.2Types of Stress295
- 12.2.1 Temperature Stress 296
- 12.2.1.1 Cold Stress 296
- 12.2.1.2 Heat Stress 296
- 12.2.2 Water Stress 297
- 12.2.2.1 Drought Stress 297
- 12.2.2.2 Salinity stress 298
- 12.3 Overview of Stress Signaling 298
- 12.3.1 Perception of Stress 298
- 12.3.1.1 Perception at Plasma Membrane 298
- 12.3.1.2 Perception by Changed Ca²⁺ Concentration 299
- 12.3.2 Action of Different Secondary Messengers 299
- 12.3.2.1 Reactive Oxygen Species (ROS) 299

Contents xi

- 12.3.2.2 Lipid Messengers 300
- 12.3.3 Ca²⁺ as an Intermediate Signal Molecule 301
- 12.3.4 Role of MAPK in Stress Signaling 302
- 12.3.5 Role of Ethylene During Stress 302
- 12.3.5.1 Ethylene 302
- 12.3.5.2 Ethylene Biosynthesis 302
- 12.3.5.3 Ethylene Perception 303
- 12.3.5.4 Role of Ethylene in Fruit Ripening 303
- 12.3.6 Role of Ethylene in Abiotic Stress 304
- 12.3.6.1 Cold Stress 304
- 12.3.6.2 Heat Stress 306
- 12.3.6.3 Salinity Stress 307
- 12.3.6.4 Ethylene and Drought Stress 310
- 12.3.6.5 Ethylene and Flooding Tolerance 310
- 12.3.7 Role of Ethylene in Biotic Stress 310
- 12.3.7.1 Ethylene Signal Perception in Response to Biotic Stress in Plants 310
- 12.3.7.2 Mechanism of Action of Ethylene in Plant Pathogen Interaction 311
- 12.3.7.3 Crosstalk of Hormones in Plant Defense 312
- 12.3.7.4 Crosstalk of Ethylene with Other Hormones in Response to Biotic Stress *313*
- 12.3.8 Role of ABA in Stress 315
- 12.3.9 Role of Other Phytohormones in Stress 316
- 12.4 Conclusion 316 Acknowledgment 316
 - References 317

13Regulatory Function of Ethylene in Plant Responses to Drought,
Cold, and Salt Stresses327

Haixia Pei, Honglin Wang, Lijuan Wang, Fangfang Zheng, and Chun-Hai Dong

- 13.1 Functional Roles of Ethylene in Plant Drought Tolerance 328
- 13.2 Ethylene Signaling in Plant Cold Tolerance 330
- 13.3 Ethylene Signaling and Response to Salt Stress 333
- 13.4 Conclusion 336 References 337

Ione Salgado, Halley Caixeta Oliveira, and Marília Gaspar

- 14.1 Introduction 345
- 14.2 Mechanisms of NO Action in Plants 346
- 14.3 The Control of NO Homeostasis in Plants 348
- 14.3.1 NO Synthesis in Plants 349
- 14.3.2 NO Degradation in Plants 350
- 14.3.3 Regulation of NO Homeostasis by S-Nitrosothiols Through the Nitrogen Assimilation Pathway 350
- 14.4 NO and the Response to Abiotic Stresses 351
- 14.4.1 Drought 351
- 14.4.2 Hypoxia Stress 352

¹⁴ Plant Nitric Oxide Signaling Under Environmental Stresses 345

xii	Contents

- 14.4.3 Salt Stress 354
- 14.4.4 Heavy Metals 355
- 14.4.5 Low Temperature Stress 356
- 14.5 Conclusions and Future Prospects 358 References 360
- 15 Cell Mechanisms of Nitric Oxide Signaling in Plants Under Abiotic Stress Conditions 371

Yuliya A. Krasylenko, Alla I. Yemets, and Yaroslav B. Blume

- 15.1 Introduction 371
- 15.2 Duality of RNS: Key Secondary Messengers in Plant Cells versus Nitrosative Stress Agents 373
- 15.3 Tyrosine Nitration as a Hallmark of Nitrosative Stress and Regulatory Post-Translational Modification *376*
- 15.4 NO and Environmental Abiotic Challenges 380
- 15.4.1 Mechanical Wounding and Programmed Cell Death Progression 380
- 15.4.2 Chilling, Cold/Heat Stress, and Acclimation 380
- 15.4.3 Light Overexposure and UV Irradiation 382
- 15.4.4 Air (Ozone) and Soil Pollution (Heavy Metals, Herbicides) 384
- 15.4.5 Osmotic Stresses: High Salinity, Drought, and Flooding 386
- 15.5 Conclusions and Future Perspectives 388 Acknowledgments 389 References 389
- 16S-Nitrosylation in Abiotic Stress in Plants and Nitric Oxide
Interaction with Plant Hormones399
 - Ankita Sehrawat and Renu Deswal
- 16.1 Introduction 399
- 16.2 S-Nitrosylation in Abiotic Stress 400
- 16.2.1 Salinity Stress 401
- 16.2.2 Cold Stress 406
- 16.2.3 Desiccation Stress 406
- 16.2.4 High Light Stress 406
- 16.2.5 Cadmium and 2,4-Dichlorophenoxy Acetic Acid (2,4-D) Stress 406
- 16.3 Nitric Oxide and Plant Hormone Interaction 407
- 16.4 Conclusions and Future Areas of Research 409 References 409

17 Salicylic Acid Signaling and its Role in Responses to Stresses in Plants 413

Pingzhi Zhao, Gui-Hua Lu, and Yong-Hua Yang

- 17.1 Introduction 413
- 17.2 Salicylic Acid Biosynthesis and Metabolism in Plants 414
- 17.2.1 SA Biosynthesis 414
- 17.2.2 SA Metabolism *416*
- 17.3 Salicylic Acid: A Central Molecule in Plant Responses to Stress 417
- 17.3.1 SA-Mediated Plant Resistance to Disease 417

Contents xiii

- 17.3.2 SA-Mediated Abiotic Stress Tolerance 419
- 17.3.2.1 Drought Stress 419
- 17.3.2.2 Cold and Heat Stress 421
- 17.3.2.3 Salinity Stress 423
- 17.3.2.4 Heavy Metal Stress 424
- 17.3.2.5 Ozone Stress and UV Radiation 425
- 17.3.3 Relationship Between Biotic and Abiotic Stress Factors 426
- 17.4 Salicylic Acid in Relation to Other Phytohormones in Response to Plant Stress Status 427
- 17.5 Conclusion 429 References 429
- 18Glucose and Brassinosteroid Signaling Network in Controlling Plant
Growth and Development Under Different Environmental
Conditions 443443
 - Manjul Singh, Aditi Gupta, and Ashverya Laxmi
- 18.1 Introduction 443
- 18.2 Glucose Homeostasis and Signaling in Plants 444
- 18.3 Brassinosteroid Biosynthesis and Signaling 447
- 18.4 Role of Glc in Plant Adaptation to Changing Environmental Conditions 452
- 18.5 Role of BR in Plant Adaptation to Changing Environmental Conditions 454
- 18.6 Glc-BR Crosstalk and its Adaptive Significance in Plant Development 458
- 18.7 Conclusion and Future Perspective 459 References 459

Index 471

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Girdhar K. Pandey received his B.Sc. (Hon.) in Biochemistry from Delhi University in 1992 and M.Sc. in Biotechnology in year 1994 from Banaras Hindu University (BHU). Subsequently, he joined the School of Life Sciences for his Ph.D., Jawaharlal Nehru University (JNU), and worked in the field of calcium signal transduction under abiotic stresses in plants. He was awarded the Ph.D. degree in 1999 and then pursued a post-doctoral career at the Department of Plant and Microbial Biology, University of California, Berkeley in 2000. There, he extended his work in the field of calcium-mediated signaling in *Arabidopsis* by studying

CBL-CIPKs, phosphatases, channels/transporters, and transcription factors involved in abiotic stresses. Currently, he is working as Professor in the Department of Plant Molecular Biology, Delhi University South Campus.

Pandey's research interests involve detail mechanistic interplay of signal transduction networks in plant under mineral nutrient deficiency (mostly potassium, calcium, and nitrate) and abiotic stresses such as drought, salinity, and oxidative stresses induced by heavy metals. His laboratory is working on the coding and decoding of mineral nutrient deficiency and abiotic stress signals by studying several signaling components such as phospholipases (PLA, PLC, and PLD), calcium sensors such as calcineurin B-like (CBL) and CBL-interacting protein kinases (CIPK), phosphatases (mainly PP2C and DSP), transcription factors (AP2-domain containing or ERF, WRKY), transporters and channels proteins (potassium and calcium channels/transporters), small GTPases, and Armadillo domain containing proteins in both *Arabidopsis* and rice. The long-term goal of his research group is to establish the mechanistic interplay and crosstalk of mineral nutrient deficient conditions and different abiotic stress signaling cascades in *Arabidopsis* and rice model systems by using the advance tools of bio-informatics, genetics, cell biology, biochemistry, and physiology with greater emphasis on functional genomics approaches.

See Pandey's web page for further information about his lab and research work: https://sites.google.com/site/gkplab/home; www.dpmb.ac.in/index.php?page=girdharpandey

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Preface

One of the basic biological differences between plants and animals is in their habit of growth and development. During the processes of evolution, unlike animals, plants adopted sessile and relatively immobile growth habits to complete their lifecycle. However, common key chemical communicators called "hormones" regulate growth and development in a similar fashion in plants and animals. Plant hormones are known as "phytohormones," which act locally and systemically to regulate their growth and development. The importance of phytohormones in a plant's biological activities can be perceived well typically in a tissue culture system, where a slight alteration in the level of various hormones lead to development of undifferentiated mass of cells called the *callus*.

The Phytohormones act at a very low concentration, usually in nano- to micro molar amounts within a plant cell. Owing to this, initial attempts to understand the biochemical and functional role of phytohormones remained inconclusive. However, with the help of chemical synthesis, large-scale purification, and through mutant based genetic approaches, valuable information to understand the underlying mechanism has been unearthed for the role of phytohormones over the past few decades. The detailed biosynthetic and signal transduction pathways have been identified for most of the classical phytohormones like auxin, abscisic acid, gibberllin, cytokinin, and ethylene along with the newly discovered brassinosteroids, salicylic acid, jasmonic acid, nitric oxide, and others. Using the tools of genetics, biochemistry, and molecular biology, plant biologists are now able to develop a concrete roadmap starting from the biosynthesis to perception and action of many of these phytohormones in regulating physiological and developmental responses.

Mounting evidence suggest that, besides regulating the growth of plants, phytohormones are the critical factors that also play a role in fine-tuning the metabolism and physiology of the plants under varying environmental cues. In the natural growth environment, plants perceive a large number of favorable (nutrient, water, light) and unfavorable stimuli (abiotic and biotic stresses), which influence their growth and development. To counteract these adverse conditions, plants have developed an intricate web of complex machineries to translate perceived stress signal into effective response by modulating the gene expression or directly affecting the physiology of the cell. Phytohormones or plant growth regulators are the key chemical molecules that are involved in broad spectrum of signaling pathways in response to a particular abiotic or biotic stress mounting an effective defense response. Similar to other signaling molecules, phytohormones act coordinately to generate synergistic, antagonistic, and additive or subtractive responses. The direct indication of this cross talk is considered to be based on molecular interactions between factors regulating phytohormone signal action pathways. Thus, to elucidate the molecular mechanism of possible integration of phytohormone signaling pathways with the intermediates of other signaling cascades under a given condition requires the major attention of plant biologists.

More than ever, in the current state where aggressive climate change, rapidly growing population, and diminishing fertile land due to increased exploitation of natural resources imposes serious threat to crop production worldwide. And so, the major focus of plant biologists across the world is to improve crop productivity and yield. With the development of gene cloning, genetic engineering, and genome editing, modification of a food crop's genetic makeup to accustom it toward changing conditions paves way for the possibility of development and enhancement of tolerance against these stresses. In the field conditions, crops are constantly exposed to multitude of stresses and efforts are being focused towards generating new crop varieties that can tolerate these multiple stresses without yield loss. Detail molecular understanding of the cross talk and interaction of different phytohormones would certainly open new directions to design strategies to generate stress tolerant high yielding crop varieties.

In the post-genomic era, one of the major challenges is the functional analysis and understanding of plant hormone associated multiple genes and gene families regulating a particular physiological and developmental aspect of plant lifecycles. One of the important physiological processes is stress response regulation, which leads to adaptation in response to adverse stimuli. With the holistic understanding of the molecular mechanism of plant hormones associated signaling involving more than one gene family, plant biologist can lay the foundation for designing and generating future crops, which can withstand adverse environmental conditions without compromising on yield and productivity.

This book on *Mechanism of Plant Hormone Signaling under Stress* comprises of two volumes (Volume I and Volume II with 18 chapters in each). Several plant biologists throughout the world have contributed in the field of 'mechanisms of plant hormone action' in plants with a special emphasis on 'stress signaling in plants'. This book describes the timely and state-of-art contribution to knowledge in the field of 'phytohormone mediated signaling under stress' to develop a better and holistic understanding of hormone stress perception, transduction followed by the generation of response.

Despite of availability of large number of publications in the field of action of phytohormones during stress conditions, the in-depth analysis of this aspect has not been covered in previous books and volumes. Above all, the topics include a greater emphasis on genomics and functional genomics aspects in order to understand the global and whole genome level changes under particular stress conditions through a functional genomics perspective.

With functional genomics tools, the mechanisms of phytohormone signaling and their target genes can be defined in a more systematic manner. The integrated analysis of phytohormone signaling under single or multiple stress conditions may prove exceptional to design stress tolerant crop plants in field conditions. Toward achieving this goal, the book is divided into four sections. Volume I comprises the first part where 18 chapters on Action of Phytohormones in Stress discusses the mechanistic action of the most common phytohormones, and their roles in stress signaling in plants. These chapters will aware the readers primarily on the detailed signaling pathways and their roles in various stress conditions in plants. The first three chapters (Chapter 1-3) are dealing with the various aspects of biosynthesis, signaling, and action of classical phytohormone, auxin in multiple stress conditions. The Chapter 4 describes the metabolism, homeostasis, and signaling pathways of another classical phytohormone, cytokinin, known to regulate growth and differentiation in plants, also involved in various stress conditions. GA also belongs to the category of classical phytohormone regulating plant growth by cell division and elongation. Chapter 5 and 6 discuss the various roles of GA, its metabolism, signal transduction pathways, and also its interaction with JA in stress conditions in plants. In continuation with Chapter 6, where interaction of GA with JA is discussed, their elaborate role, metabolism, and signaling pathway is discussed in detail in Chapter 7 with a special emphasis of JA in stress management. The another typical phytohormone, ABA, long known to regulate stress related responses in plants is extensively discussed in Chapters 8-11, where different contributors have discussed its in-depth signal transduction and mechanism of action in regulating both abiotic and biotic stresses. Ethylene is also a conventional gaseous hormone known to regulate fruit ripening and senescence in plants. Chapters 12 and 13 discusses the elaborate aspects of ethylene signal transduction and responses under both abiotic and biotic stresses and cross talk with other phytohormones. Chapters 14 to 16 emphasizes the signal transduction and detail role of another gaseous hormone, nitric oxide or NO and the process of S-nitrosylation in several abiotic stress conditions in plants. Salicylic acid (SA) is mostly appreciated as an important phytohormone regulating biotic stress. SA is also well elaborated upon in multiple abiotic stresses in Chapter 17. The last chapter of the Part I (Chapter 18) describes the complex interplay of brassinosteroid (BR) and glucose in growth and development, and also during environmental stress conditions.

Volume II of this book contains three parts (Parts II-IV) consisting of 18 chapters in total. Part II of this book describes the role of several different factors that are intangibly linked with phytohormone signaling under biotic and abiotic stresses. Chapters 1 and 2 elaborate the role of reactive oxygen species (ROS) in regulating both abiotic and biotic stress responses. ROS are key signaling molecules, which are also interacting and participating in multiple phytohormone-mediated signaling and response pathways during various stress conditions in plants. Calcium (Ca^{2+}) is a metal ion involved in regulating a plethora of biological processes including stress signal transduction pathways in plants. Ca²⁺ acts as second messenger and is involved in signaling pathways of several phytohormones. The most studied phytohormone where Ca^{2+} is a pivotal signaling molecule is abscisic acid (ABA) regulating several abiotic stress responses. Chapter 3 focuses on the role of Ca^{2+} signaling components and their complex interplay with multiple phytohormones in plants. Chapter 4 reports the role of phospholipids in regulating various signaling pathways during biotic and abiotic stresses and their interaction with phytohormones. Emerging evidences showing effects of biotic and abiotic stresses on cytoskeletal protein network mediated through different phytohormone is highlighted in Chapter 5. In the Chapter 6, the role of several proteins involved in metabolism, transport, and signal transduction of different phytohormones is discussed. Further, increased use of man-made chemicals such as organic compounds mainly used as

pesticides, herbicides, and fungicides has resulted in the accumulation of these xenobiotic compounds in the environment that leads to interference with plant hormone signaling and metabolism. Chapter 7 articulates important aspects of interaction of xenobiotic compounds with phytohormone signaling and metabolism, and opens up new possibilities to investigate these aspects at molecular levels. In Chapter 8, the role of phytohormone mediated signaling in several metal stresses and how plants changes their growth and development in response to toxic metal ions is well documented.

Part III (in Volume II) of this book comprised of three chapters, which mainly discusses the role of transcription factors, transcription activators, and microRNA in the regulation of phytohormones related gene expression under stress and developmental conditions. In Chapter 9, the development of stomata by several transcription factors and their regulation by multiple phytohormones is described. Since stomata is the gate-keeper that controls the passage of gases like CO_2 , O_2 , and are responsible for the transpirational pull of water and nutrients from the soil, their opening and closure is thoroughly fine-tuned by several phytohormones, majorly by ABA. This chapter details the interplay of phytohormones in the development of stomata and their regulation under abiotic stresses mediated by multiple phytohormones. Chapter 10 describes the role of the phytohormone regulated mediator complex. This is a large multimeric transcriptional activator complex, involved in regulating the transcription of multiple stress inducible genes. In Chapter 11, the complex regulatory roles of micro-RNA in modulating the gene expression in phytohormones and abiotic stress conditions are extensively elucidated.

The last part of this book (in Volume II), Part IV is comprised of seven chapters, mainly discussing the roles of multiple phytohormones in diverse stress adaptive responses. The first chapter in this section, i.e., Chapter 12 confers on the role of multiple phytohormones and microbial elicitors in regulating the signaling pathway in guard cell during stomatal closure. Chapter 13 elaborates on how phytohormones are involved in regulating pathogen infection and plant defense and immune response during biotic stress. In Chapter 14, the role of multiple phytohormones is described in regulating both seed development and stress responses. The important role and interaction of multiple phytohormones is once more discussed in abiotic and biotic stress responses in Chapter 15 with special emphasis on SA and its interaction with other phytohormones. With the identification of multiple phytohormones signaling pathways, it is well appreciated that many of these phytohormone shows the complex interaction because of convergence and overlap of signal transduction components such as kinases, phosphatases, transcription factors, and other signaling molecules. Chapters 16 and 17 highlight the complex interplay of several phytohormones in abiotic and biotic stress regulation and crosstalk. The last chapter of this section, Chapter 18, emphasizes on the transgenic approaches to manipulate crop productivity by altering the levels of several phytohormones. With an in-depth understanding of several signal transduction components mediated by phytohormones, the ultimate goal is to translate this mechanistic knowledge into useful tools to generate crop varieties with either genetic alteration of these signaling components, or to utilize this knowledge for molecular-marker assisted breeding, which ultimately augment stress tolerance in crop plants without compromising their productivity.

Despite my rigorous attempts, not all aspects of phytohormone signaling and components could be discussed here because of space constraints. Nevertheless, I strongly believe that this book, covering different characteristics of phytohormone signal transduction machinery with a special emphasis on the mechanistic action under stress conditions will prove extremely useful to students, teachers, and research scientists.

I am grateful to all the contributors of this work, which could not be possibly compiled without their significant contributions. At last, I would like to express my sincere thanks to Dr. M.C. Tyagi, Dr. Amita Pandey, and Ms. Manisha Sharma for critical reading and constructive suggestions related to this book. Ms. Manisha Sharma is also acknowledged for designing the cover page of this book. I am also thankful to Delhi University, University Grant Commission, Department of Biotechnology, Department of Science and Technology, and Council of Scientific and Industrial Research, India for supporting research in my laboratory.

> Girdhar K. Pandey (Editor)