

# Preface

Over the couple of decades, oilseed production of the major world oil crops has increased tremendously to become one of the most important world sources of vegetable oils. Several new and superior varieties have been continually evolved and released in major oil crops in different countries of the world. The advancements have necessitated adoption of newer technologies which have now made possible what till recently was considered improbable.

With the objective of providing major reference volume for those interested or involved with vegetable oil industry as well as undergraduate and graduate students, this volume presents general but essential information on the technology developed and a comprehensive review of the results that have led to the advancements in oilseed production, processing, and utilization. Advances in the technology of seed processing to produce oil and meal are well presented followed by hybrid technology, biotechnology, and meal quality for animal nutrition

In addition to edible uses, the potential for utilizing oil in developing biodiesel markets, fatty acid long chains, and their derivatives is reviewed. Realizing the need to update the knowledge of the recent improved technologies by all those interested in major oil crops, the editor approached the leading scientists of the world for their write-ups of the advances made in their respective areas of specialization during the last decade so that the same could be packed in one volume for the benefit of students, nutritionists, biotechnologists, and industrialists, as well and researchers engaged in the improvement of major oil crops.

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