Preface

The economic impact of malformation disease of mango, one of the most important among fruit crops in the Indian sub-continent, is so serious that it fascinated the scientists of at least four different disciplines viz. plant physiology, horticulture, entomology and plant pathology (mycology and virology). But instead of combined multidisciplinary efforts to sort out the problem, the scientists in the Indian sub-continent and Egypt made piece meal approach, remained confined to the fragmented knowledge of their respective disciplines, refused to appreciate the merits of research in other disciplines and thus created confusion about the nature of the cause of the disease and failed to suggest field effective control measures. The scientific arguments were degraded into personal bickering to the extent that others who did not belong to any of the camps preferred to play safe and referred the disease as a “malady of unknown origin”. Later the scientists of Israel, South Africa, USA, Mexico, Central America, Cuba, and Australia have participated in the research of mango malformation after appearance of this disease in their respective countries. The scientists of these countries are unequivocal about the nature of the causal organism. In India also the scenario has seen a gradual shift during the last twenty years. A consensus is being built up accepting *Fusarium moniliforme* var. *subglutinans* as the inducer of the malady. A single step control measure has been replaced by an integrated management strategy. However, the confusion that prevailed over several decades has not been totally resolved in the mind of some academics. The present monograph aims to address them with critical appraisal of the current status of the researches on this disease of international importance.

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