
Semester-VI

Course Code: BC613T

Core Course XIII: Plant Metabolism

The objective of this course is to expose the students to various metabolic processes involved with plant life

(Credits: Theory-4, Practical-2)

THEORY

Lectures: 60

Unit 1: Concept of metabolism (6 lectures)

Introduction, anabolic and catabolic pathways, regulation of metabolism, role of regulatory enzymes (allosteric ,covalent modulation and Isozymes).

Unit 2: Carbon assimilation (14 lectures)

Historical background, photosynthetic pigments, role of photosynthetic pigments (chlorophylls and accessory pigments), antenna molecules and reaction centres, photochemical reactions, photosynthetic electron transport, PSI, PSII, Q cycle, CO₂ reduction, photorespiration, C₄pathways; Crassulacean acid metabolism; Factors affecting CO₂ reduction.

Unit 3: Carbohydrate metabolism (2 lectures)

Synthesis and catabolism of sucrose and starch.

Unit 4: Carbon Oxidation (10 lectures)

Glycolysis, fate of pyruvate, regulation of glycolysis, oxidative pentose phosphate pathway, oxidative decarboxylation of pyruvate, regulation of PDH, NADH shuttle; TCA cycle,amphibolic role, anaplerotic reactions, regulation of the cycle, mitochondrial electron transport, oxidative phosphorylation, cyanide-resistant respiration, factors affecting respiration.

Unit 5: ATP-Synthesis (8 lectures)

Mechanism of ATP synthesis, substrate level phosphorylation, chemiosmotic mechanism (oxidative and photophosphorylation), ATP synthase, Boyers conformational model, Racker's experiment, Jagendorf's experiment; role of uncouplers.

Unit 6: Lipid metabolism (8 lectures)

Synthesis and breakdown of triglycerides, β -oxidation, glyoxylate cycle, gluconeogenesis and its role in mobilisation of lipids during seed germination, α oxidation.

Unit 7: Nitrogen metabolism

(8 lectures)

Nitrate assimilation, biological nitrogen fixation (examples of legumes and non-legumes); Physiology and biochemistry of nitrogen fixation; Ammonia assimilation and transamination.

Unit 8: Mechanisms of signal transduction

(4 lectures)

Receptor-ligand interactions; Second messenger concept, Calcium calmodulin, MAP kinase cascade.

Course Code: BC613P

Core Course XIII - Practical: Plant Metabolism

1. Chemical separation of photosynthetic pigments.
2. Experimental demonstration of Hill's reaction.
3. To study the effect of light intensity on the rate of photosynthesis.
4. Effect of carbon dioxide on the rate of photosynthesis.
5. To compare the rate of respiration in different parts of a plant.
6. To demonstrate activity of Nitrate reductase in germinating leaves of different plant sources.
7. To study the activity of lipases in germinating oilseeds and demonstrate mobilization of lipids during germination.
8. Demonstration of fluorescence by isolated chlorophyll pigments.
9. Demonstration of absorption spectrum of photosynthetic pigments.

Suggested Readings

1. Hopkins, W.G. and Huner, A. (2008). Introduction to Plant Physiology. John Wiley and Sons. U.S.A. 4th edition.
2. Taiz, L., Zeiger, E., Møller, I.M., and Murphy, A (2015). Plant Physiology and Development. Sinauer Associates Inc. USA. 6th edition.
3. Harborne, J.B. (1973). Phytochemical Methods. John Wiley & Sons. New York.

Course Code: BC614T

Core Course XIV: Plant Biotechnology

The objective of this course is to expose the students to application of modern tools and techniques in Biology

(Credits: Theory-4, Practical-2)

THEORY

Lectures: 60

Unit 1: Plant Tissue Culture (16 lectures)

Historical perspective; Composition of media; Nutrient and hormone requirements (role of vitamins and hormones); Totipotency; Organogenesis; Embryogenesis (somatic and zygotic); Protoplast isolation, culture and fusion; Tissue culture applications (micropropagation, androgenesis, virus elimination, secondary metabolite production, haploids, triploids and hybrids; Cryopreservation; Germplasm Conservation).

Unit 2: Recombinant DNA technology (12 lectures)

Restriction Endonucleases (History, Types I-IV, biological role and application); Restriction Mapping (Linear and Circular); Cloning Vectors: Prokaryotic (pUC 18 and pUC19, pBR322, Ti plasmid, BAC); Lambda phage, M13 phagemid, Cosmid, Shuttle vector; Eukaryotic Vectors (YAC).

Unit 3: Gene Cloning (10 lectures)

Recombinant DNA, Bacterial Transformation and selection of recombinant clones, PCR-mediated gene cloning; Gene Construct; construction of genomic and cDNA libraries, screening DNA libraries to obtain gene of interest by genetic selection; complementation, colony hybridization.

Unit 4: Methods of gene transfer (8 lectures)

Agrobacterium-mediated, Direct gene transfer by Electroporation, Microinjection, Microprojectile bombardment; Selection of transgenics– selectable marker and reporter genes (Luciferase, GUS, GFP).

Unit 5: Applications of Biotechnology (14 lectures)

Pest resistant (Bt-cotton); herbicide resistant plants (RoundUp Ready soybean); Transgenic crops with improved quality traits (Flavr Savr tomato, Golden rice); Improved horticultural varieties (Moondust carnations); Role of transgenics in bioremediation (Superbug); edible vaccines; Industrial enzymes (Aspergillase, Protease, Lipase); Genetically Engineered Products–Human Growth Hormone; Humulin; Biosafety concerns.

Course Code: BC614P
Core Course XIV - Practical: Plant Biotechnology

1. (a) Preparation of MS medium.
- (b) Demonstration of *in vitro* sterilization and inoculation methods using leaf and nodal explants of tobacco, *Datura*, *Brassica* etc.
2. Study of anther, embryo and endosperm culture, micropropagation, somatic embryogenesis & artificial seeds through photographs.
3. Isolation of protoplasts.
4. Construction of restriction map of circular and linear DNA from the data provided.
5. Study of methods of gene transfer through photographs: *Agrobacterium*-mediated, direct gene transfer by electroporation, microinjection, microprojectile bombardment.
6. Study of steps of genetic engineering for production of Bt cotton, Golden rice, Flavr Savr tomato through photographs.
7. Isolation of plasmid DNA.
8. Restriction digestion and gel electrophoresis of plasmid DNA.

Suggested Readings

1. Bhojwani, S.S. and Razdan, M.K., (1996). Plant Tissue Culture: Theory and Practice. Elsevier Science Amsterdam. The Netherlands.
2. Glick, B.R., Pasternak, J.J. (2003). Molecular Biotechnology- Principles and Applications of recombinant DNA. ASM Press, Washington.
3. Bhojwani, S.S. and Bhatnagar, S.P. (2011). The Embryology of Angiosperms. Vikas Publication House Pvt. Ltd., New Delhi. 5th edition.
4. Snustad, D.P. and Simmons, M.J. (2010). Principles of Genetics. John Wiley and Sons, U.K. 5th edition.
5. Stewart, C.N. Jr. (2008). Plant Biotechnology & Genetics: Principles, Techniques and Applications. John Wiley & Sons Inc. U.S.A.