

**Board of Agricultural National Research Council (ed): Genetic Engineering of Plants. Agricultural Research Opportunities and Policy Concerns.** National Academy Press: Washington, DC 1984. 83 pp., 27 figs., 3 tabs. \$ 11.50.

This is a report of a convocation sponsored by the Board of Agriculture of the National Research Council, and organized and co-sponsored with the aid of Dr. Alexander Hollaender of the Council for Research Planning in Biological Science, Inc.

The meeting took place in May 1983 and was attended by plant scientists and science policy makers from government, private companies, universities, and by members of the National Academy of Sciences. Researchers described new ways of crop improvement, gene transfer and somatic cell genetics. Policy makers delineated and debated application of the tools of biotechnology to agricultural problems.

Hot topics such as policy and institutional considerations, neglect of basic science, university-industry relations, safety regulations and patent problems were touched upon. Participants emphasized the necessity of changing research funding and upgrading training in order to realize maximum potentials. Various speakers urged new collaboration efforts among basic scientists and plant breeders.

The meeting must have given the idea of a new era in agricultural research. This booklet summarizes the discussions, sometimes giving the names of contributors. It is a snapshot of the development of a promising new technology, which will have a strong impact in the amalgamation of conventional and cell genetics on the way to new horizons of plant breeding.

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**Jacob, L.; Lemperle, E.; Weiss, E.: Der Wein. Bereitung, Behandlung, Untersuchung, 9th edn.** Stuttgart: Ulmer 1984. 302 pp., 64 figs., 24 tabs.

The new edition of this book, which first appeared in 1950, written by E. Vogt, demonstrates on one side its popularity in German-speaking regions and, on the other hand, the continuous progress made in wine making. It emphasizes the production of grapes, the composition of grape-juice as the starting material for wine making, and the various stages of preparation of wine – its microbiological and technological aspects. The presentation is orientated towards practical aspects of wine-growers and vintagers. It is surprising that no hints for grape breeding is given.

Compared with the earlier edition of 1979, information on the wine industries of eastern countries of Europe is extended, as well, the new European legal decrees are included. Also new are the chapters on the microbiological acid degradation, on mistakes, and on diseases of wines. Practical instruction for the control of grape juice, cider and wines are brought up-to-date, so that the book is again a balanced text for all people working in wineries and vineyards.

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