III Semester

Course 7: Plant Breeding

Credits -3

I. Learning Objectives: By the end of this course the learner has:

1. To learn the objectives and scope of plant breeding along with reproductive methods in plants.
2. To understand the breeding methods in plant for production of new varieties.
3. To have a comprehensive knowledge on tools and techniques in plant breeding.

II. Learning Outcomes:

1. Compare and contrast the methods of reproduction and also pollination mechanisms.
2. Design appropriate pollination method for a given crop plant.
3. Recommend the best possible breeding method for a crop species.
4. Propose the steps for production of hybrid varieties of crop plants.
5. Apply molecular techniques to develop a tailored plant variety.

III. Syllabus of Theory:

Unit-1: Basic concepts of plant breeding 8 Hrs.

1. Definition, aim, objectives and scope of plant breeding; concepts in plant breeding: genetic variation, heritability, and selection.
2. Advantages and disadvantages of asexual and sexual reproduction; apomixis: definition, types and significance.
3. A brief account of self and cross-pollination, their genetic consequences and significance; classification of crop plants based on mode of pollination and mode of reproduction.

Unit-2: Contrivances for cross pollination 7 Hrs.

1. Self-incompatibility in plants – Definition, heteromorphic and homomorphic systems; exploitation of self-incompatibility in hybrid production.
2. Male sterility- Genetic, cytoplasmic and cytoplasmic-genetic, utilization in plant breeding.
3. Domestication of plants, centres of origin of crop plants.

Unit-3: Breeding methods in plants 9 Hrs.

1. Plant introduction – types, objectives, plant introduction agencies in India, procedure, merits and demerits; germplasm collections, genetic erosion, gene sanctuaries.
2. Selection – natural and artificial selection – basic principles of selection.
3. Self-pollinated crops: pure line selection method – procedure, advantages and disadvantages, achievements.
4. Vegetatively propagated crops: Clonal selection - procedure, advantages and disadvantages, achievements.

Unit-4: Breeding methods in cross-pollinated plants 12 Hrs.

1. Hybridization – objectives, types, procedure, advantages and disadvantages, achievements.
2. Cross-pollinated crops: back cross method - procedure, advantages and disadvantages, achievements.
3. Heterosis: definition, genetic bases of heterosis – dominance, over dominance and epistasis hypotheses; physiological bases of heterosis – commercial utilization.
4. Synthetics and composites – production procedures – merits, demerits and achievements.

Unit-5: Modern methods in plant breeding 9 Hrs.

1. Mutation breeding: spontaneous and induced mutations – characteristic features of mutations – procedure of mutation breeding – applications – advantages, limitations and achievements.
2. Polyploidy breeding: auto-polyploids and allopolyploids – applications in crop improvement and limitations.
3. DNA markers and their applications in plant breeding: RFLP, SSR, and SNP
4. Marker Assisted Selection (MAS) and its applications in plant breeding.

IV. Text Books:

1. Singh, B. D. (2001) Plant breeding: Principles and methods. Kalyani Publishers, New Delhi, India.
2. Poehlman, J. M. and Sleper, D. A. (1995) Breeding field crops, 4th ed. Iowa State University Press, Ames, Iowa, USA.
3. Patil, J.V., S.S. Patil, and R.A. Balikai (2019) Principles and Methods in Plant Breeding, Scientific Publishers (India), Jodhpur
4. Purohit, S.S. (2014) Plant Breeding: Principles and Methods, Agrobios (India), Jodhpur

V. Reference Books:

1. Acquaah, G. 2012. Principles of plant genetics and breeding, 2nd ed. Wiley-Blackwell, Ames, Iowa, USA.
2. Allard, R. W. 1999. Principles of plant breeding. John Wiley & Sons, New York, USA.
3. Stuber, C. W., Edwards, M. D. and Wendel, J. F. 1987. Molecular markers in plant breeding:

   Applications and potential. Science 238: 1659-1664.
4. Hayes, H. K., R. E. Kirk, and R. H. Jones (1951). Methods for the Statistical Analysis of Plant Breeding Experiments. Iowa State College Press, Ames, IA.
5. Simmonds, N. W. (1979). Principles of Crop Improvement (2nd ed.). Longman, Harlow, UK.

VI. Suggested activities and evaluation methods:

Unit-1: Activity: Written assessment on reproduction and pollination mechanisms in plants.

Evaluation method: Awarding grade based on writing appropriate points in a descriptive way.

Unit-2: Activity: Collection of scientific literature on contrivances in plants to promote cross fertilization.

Evaluation method: Quality and organization of the report in a systematic way with data collected and analysis made.

Unit-3: Activity: Hands on activity of selection procedure for a given crop plant.

Evaluation method: Assessment of understanding and applying appropriate selection procedure. **Unit-4: Activity:** Field trip to an agriculture or a horticulture research station to learn hybridization techniques.

Evaluation method: Active participation and learning skills on production of hybrid plants.

Unit-5: Activity: Case studies of modern applications of molecular techniques in crop improvement.

Evaluation method: Based on a rubric with specified criteria and performance levels of the learner.

III Semester

Course 7: Plant Breeding

Credits -1 (PRACTICAL)

I. Course Outcomes: On successful completion of this practical course, student shall be able to:

1. Distinguish self and cross-pollinated plant species based on floral biology.
2. Perform skills related to self and cross pollination in plants.
3. Make hybridization to produce new varieties.

II. Laboratory/field exercises:

1. Floral biology in a self and a cross pollinated plant species.
2. Identification and classification of plants based on pollination mechanism.
3. Pollen viability test.
4. Observation on pollen germination.
5. Practicing emasculation technique.
6. Practicing selfing and crossing techniques.
7. Assessment of genetic variability.
8. Estimation of heterosis and inbreeding depression.
9. Studying mutant and polyploids in crop plants.