Lieth, H., Moschenko, M., Koyro, H.-W., Hamdy, A. (ed.): **Halophyte Uses in Different Climates I. Ecological and Ecophysiological Studies.** (Progress in Biometeorology. Vol. 13.) - Backhuys Publishers, Leiden 1999. XII and 258 pp., 71 figures, 25 tables. NLG 150.00. ISBN 90-5782-038-2.

Hamdy, A., Lieth, H., Todorovič, M., Moschenko,M. (ed.): **Halophyte Uses in Different Climates II. Halophyte Crop Development: Pilot Studies.** (Progress in Biometerology. Vol. 14.) - Backhuys Publishers, Leiden 1999. XII and 144 pp., 34 figures, 40 tables. NLG 85.00. ISBN 90-5782-025-0.

Fresh water resources for crop growing have become limited, namely in the Mediterranean and subtropical dry regions. Among possible approaches to yield increase is to develop crops with an increased salinity tolerance. Nevertheless, breeding and selecting aimed at higher levels of salinity tolerance in common crops has brought limited success so far. Some scientists are working, therefore, on the concept of "cash crop halophytes", meaning to select from the numerous halophytic species on earth those that could be utilised on a large scale in an economically feasible manner without spoiling the soil environment. The European Commission supports this topic and in 1996 established a Concerted Action (CA) programme "Sustainable utilisation of halophytes" with the goal to develop research programmes and technologies for future sustainable use of new halophytes for many different purposes. This group organised a workshop held at the INTECOL Conference 1998 in Florence, Italy. The above mentioned books compile the results of this meeting and besides contributions of the CA members from Germany, Italy, Tunisia, Portugal, Morocco, Egypt, Pakistan, U.A. Emirates, and Saudi Arabia, also included several contributions from scientists outside this Mediterranean oriented research group such as from the U.S.A. (1 contribution), Nigeria (1), and Russia (1). Volume I mainly contains papers dealing with ecological and physiological aspects of selected halophytes, volume II contains the papers on irrigation technologies, halophyte growth studies and their use as animal feed. From them we learn in detail the results obtained in halophytes, both herbs and shrubs, *e.g. Suadea fruticosa, Spartina maritima, Halimione portulacoides, Arthrocnemum fruticosum, Laguncularia racemosa, Haloxylon recurvum, Halimione verrucifera, Cressa retica, Salicornietea fruticosae, Salicornia europaea, Atriplex* species and others, and the results of projects and trials dealing with cultivation of halophytes in saline marsh, desert or seashore areas. Special attention is paid to the development of irrigating systems with saline waste water, natural brackish water or even seawater. Both volumes contain annexes with Climate diagrams relevant to the contributions, contact addresses for CA members and volume I Halophyte Database Version 2 with a list of more than 2600 halophyte species. Both books present useful information for everybody who wants to learn more about the research of economically feasible and ecologically sustainable halophyte utilisation.

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