



## Microbial Strategies for Crop Improvement

By Mohammad Saghir Khan

Springer Nov 2009, 2009. Buch. Book Condition: Neu. 235x155x29 mm. Neuware - With an ever-increasing human population, the demand placed upon the agriculture sector to supply more food is one of the greatest challenges for the agrarian community. In order to meet this challenge, environmentally unfriendly agrochemicals have played a key role in the green revolution and are even today commonly recommended to circumvent nutrient deficiencies of the soils. The use of agrochemicals is, though, a major factor for improvement of plant production; it causes a profound deteriorating effect on soil health (soil fertility) and in turn negatively affects the productivity and sustainability of crops. Concern over disturbance to the microbial diversity and consequently soil fertility (as these microbes are involved in biogeochemical processes), as well as economic constraints, have prompted fundamental and applied research to look for new agro-biotechnologies that can ensure competitive yields by providing sufficiently not only essential nutrients to the plants but also help to protect the health of soils by mitigating the toxic effects of certain pollutants. In this regard, the role of naturally abundant yet functionally fully unexplored microorganisms such as biofertilizers assume a special significance in the...

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