

*Librería*  
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The bacterial wilt diseases caused by members of the *Ralstonia solanacearum* species complex have never been more important. The research presented in this volume reveals a pathogen on the move, with a growing global profile. While these diseases inflict ongoing and increasing crop losses on subsistence farmers, the pathogen now has significant political and economic impact in the developed world.

This book, based on the 3rd International Bacterial Wilt Symposium, covers topics ranging from the basic biology of the host-pathogen interaction to applied research, designed to immediately address disease losses in the field. Contributors to the book span a broad range of applied and basic biologists. They work in all parts of the world, offering current data on sustainable low-tech disease control practices and on *R. solanacearum* as a model system for understanding molecular plant-microbe interactions.

The book opens with two key reviews. One presents a thoughtful analysis of international collaborations on bacterial wilt research in the context of a review of literature published on the topic. The second is a global assessment of the current impact of bacterial wilt. Although there are still significant gaps in the data available, for the first time a general idea of the real impact and extent of these diseases around the world is presented.

Topics covered in this resource include: epidemiology, disease management, breeding and deployment, host plant response and disease management, pathogen genetics, *R. solanacearum* in banana and plantains, and diversity and detection. Experts provide overviews focusing on the pressing research needs in each area. These overview chapters are intended to give the reader the best current understanding of the topic and to suggest promising directions for future research.

Global Impact of *R. solanacearum*:

*R. solanacearum* is a contentious topic in agricultural trade negotiations in the European Union and is subject to strict quarantine and eradication regulations in the United States. This legislation

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has had unforeseen economic impacts on laborers in developing nations where millions of ornamental plant cuttings are produced for the North American and European markets. In addition, reports at the 3rd International Bacterial Wilt Symposium indicated that the most rapid and alarming increases in bacterial wilt disease incidence around the world are on potatoes, bananas and plantains. More than ever, scientists who work with this pathogen must recognize that although bacterial wilt certainly can cause severe crop losses on a local scale, it also plays a complex and significant role in the worldwide agricultural matrix.