DISCIPLINE SPECIFIC CORE COURSE – 17: Plant Biochemistry and Metabolism

CREDIT DISTRIBUTION, ELIGIBILITY AND PRE-REQUISITES OF THE COURSE

Course title & Code	Credits	Credit distribution of the course			Eligibility criteria	Pre-requisite of the course (if any)
		Lecture	Tutorial	Practical/ Practice		
Plant Biochemistry and Metabolism **DSC - 17**	**4**	**2**	**0**	**2**	Class XII pass with Biology/ Biotechnology	**Nil**

Learning Objectives:

- To understand different pathways of metabolism in plant cells.
- To understand how various metabolic pathways work in a synchronized manner.

Learning Outcomes: At the end of the course the student will:

6. know the details of carbon assimilation, oxidation, synthesis of ATP- the energy currency of the cell, nitrogen fixation and lipid metabolism.
7. understand the role of enzymes in regulating metabolic pathways for molecules like carbohydrates, lipids and proteins.
8. understand the coordination of various biochemical reactions with reference to cell requirement and its economy.

Unit 1:Concepts in Metabolism **01 Hour**

Introduction, anabolic and catabolic pathways, coupled reactions

Unit 2: **Enzymes** **04 Hours**

Structure, classification and mechanism of action, Michaelis-Menten equation (no derivation), enzyme inhibition (competitive, non-competitive and uncompetitive), allosteric regulation and covalent modulation, factors affecting enzyme activity.

Unit 3:Carbon Assimilation **07 Hours**

Concept of light, absorption and action spectra, photosynthetic pigments (no structural details), PSI, PSII antenna molecules and reaction centres, LHC, photochemical reaction, photosynthetic electron transport, photophosphorylation (cyclic and non-cyclic)

Dark reactions: CO_2 reduction in C3, C4 pathways and CAM, photorespiration

Unit 4: Carbohydrate Metabolism **02 Hours**

Metabolite pool and exchange of metabolites, synthesis and degradation of sucrose and starch (no structural details)

Unit 5:Carbon Oxidation **06 Hours**

Glycolysis, fate of pyruvate- aerobic, anaerobic respiration and fermentation, regulation of glycolysis, oxidative pentose phosphate pathway, oxidative decarboxylation of pyruvate, Krebs cycle and its regulation, amphibolic role of Krebs cycle, mitochondrial electron transport, oxidative phosphorylation, cyanide-resistant respiration

Unit 6: ATP Synthesis **02 Hours**

Mechanism of ATP synthesis-substrate level phosphorylation, oxidative and photophosphorylation, chemiosmosis, ATP synthase

Unit 7: Lipid Metabolism **04 Hours**

Triglycerides: synthesis, degradation through alpha and beta -oxidation, glyoxylate cycle

Unit 8: **Nitrogen Metabolism** **04 Hours**

Nitrate assimilation (NR and NiR), biological nitrogen fixation in legumes (nodulation and role of dinitrogenase) Ammonia assimilation: GS-GOGAT, reductive amination and transamination.

Practicals **60 Hours**

1. Study the activity of urease and the effect of substrate concentration on its activity.
2. Study the effect of pH on the activity of catalase enzyme.
3. Chemical separation of photosynthetic pigments (liquid-liquid partitioning).
15. Study Hill reaction by dye reduction method.
16. Study the law of limiting factors.
17. Compare the rate of respiration in three different parts of a plant.
18. Study the activity of Nitrate reductase in leaves of two different plants.
19. To study the activity of lipases in germinating oil seeds and explain mobilization of lipids during germination.
20. To study the fluorescence in isolated chlorophyll pigments.
21. To study the absorption spectrum of photosynthetic pigments.
22. To study respiratory quotient (RQ).

Suggested Readings:

14. Nelson, D.L., Cox, M.M. (2017). Lehninger Principle of Biochemistry, 7th edition. NewYork, NY: W.H. Freeman, Macmillan learning.
15. Taiz, L., Zeiger, E., Moller, I. M. & Murphy, A. 2018. Plant Physiology and Development, International 6thedn, Oxford University Press, Sinauer Associates, New York, USA.

16. Hopkins, W.G., Huner, N. (2008). Introduction of Plant Physiology, 4th edition. New Jearsey, U.S.: John Wiley and sons.
17. Jones, R., Ougham, H., Thomas, H., Waaland, S. (2013). The molecular life of plants. Chichester, England: Wiley-Blackwell.

Additional Resources:

19. Buchanan, B.B., Gruissem, W. and Jones, R.L. (2015). Biochemistry and Molecular Biology of Plants, 2nd edition. New Jearsey, U.S.: Wiley Blackwell.
20. Kochhar, S.L. & Gujral, S.K. 2020. Plant Physiology: Theory and Applications, 2nd Edition. Cambridge University Press, UK.
21. Bhatla, S.C., Lal, M.A. (2018). Plant Physiology, Development and Metabolism. Singapore: Springer.

Note: Examination scheme and mode shall be as prescribed by the Examination Branch, University of Delhi, from time to time.