BIOREMEDIATION OF MERCURY BY TRANSGENIC PLANTS – A NEW INSIGHT

SAIKAT KUMAR BASU*

Bioremediation by plants (Phytoremediation) is rapidly gaining ground as an innovative approach to clean up heavy metal contamination of our natural environment. The traditional approaches of chemical decontamination of mercury are extremely costly, time consuming and labour intensive. Hence environment – friendly and economic approaches such as phytoremediation are being investigated all over the world particularly in western hemisphere as potential and viable alternative. Engineering of transgenic plants with microbial genes for mercury reduction have been recently investigated to be an extremely efficient approach in detoxification of toxic levels of mercury in contaminated sites. This paper highlights the role of transgenic plants in bioremediation of mercury from different angles.