

BOOK REVIEW

PEST CONTROL IN RICE

PANS Manual No. 3, Centre for Overseas Pest Research, London. Second edition, fully revised, 1976.

"Pest Control in Rice", PANS Manual No. 3, second edition is a completely revised and expanded version of the standby for rice workers since 1970.

Illustrations have been increased and the addition of colour plates to assist the worker in identifying common diseases and pest problems is welcome. More colour plates would have been desirable particularly as it is often the symptom that the field worker first has contact with.

Following an introductory section, it covers weeds, diseases, nematodes, molluscs, crustaceans, insects, mites, birds and rodents. Also included is a valuable section on storage methods and problems and another on pesticide application. The storage methods are generally applicable to other Papua New Guinea commodities.

Quite recent information on suitable chemicals for insect and disease control is presented both with articles on each pest or disease and also in table form. It would have been useful if the appendix had also listed manufacturers of the chemicals. Such information would have been readily available to the editors of the manual in the latest issue of the Farm Chemicals Handbook *, which lists world-wide manufacturers and brand names.

Certain errors are also noticeable. For example the colour plate of brown spot describes it as *Helminthosporium* leaf spot, although the text describes the disease by

its now correct name of *Drechslera oryzae* for the asexual state; the valid name for the sexual state is still *Cochliobolus miyabeanus* as mentioned in the text. There are also dropped words which may be misleading; the introduction's first line missed the word "thousand" when stating that the 1974 world rice production was "323,201 metric tons".

A final criticism which is the most important is the excessive use of complex English phrasing and the use of highly technical words where simpler words are possible. Since many people throughout the world who will use this book do not speak English as a first language, it would have been more appropriate for the editors to make special efforts to use controlled English where possible.

Nevertheless the new edition is a welcome improvement on the contents of the first edition. Particularly for field officers, agriculturalists and mill managers who must make the right decisions without benefit of other resources the book is a must. The price with postage is K2.51, but it is free to government, educational and research establishments when addressed to individuals under their official title.

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* An annual publication from Meister Publishing Company, Willoughby, Ohio, U.S.A.