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Ahmed, Saleem, ed.. PEST CONTROL IN ASIA AND THE PACIFIC. Report of the APO Seminar on Pest Control held in Japan from 24th September to 4th October, 1991. Tokyo: Asian Productivity Organization, 1993. 409 pp. US \$15.00. paper ISBN: 92-833-2131-6.

For the majority of the Asian Productivity Organization's (APO) member countries, agricultural production continues to be the most significant factor in both social and economic development. The food needs of a continually growing population, the desire for self-sufficient food security, and the allure of potentially high profits to be gained through agro-industries have all influenced farmers and agricultural scientists to determine ways in which high crop yields may be generated at a low cost using declining amounts of arable land. Pest control is just one of the many factors to be studied in this effort.

Pest control is a complex process with many concerns to be addressed before control methods may be implemented. Some of the issues considered in pest control studies include, but are not limited to, the following: number and types of pests to be controlled, types of crops to be protected, potential impacts on human health, potential impacts on secondary plant and animal populations in treated areas, impact of climate and weather on pest control method, legal limitations and implications, and general environmental impacts.

The book PEST CONTROL is just as daunting as its topic and may not be the best resource for the novice reader. It is a report from a professional conference held in Japan. Thus, for the advanced reader or professional practitioner, this report holds a wealth of information on Asian pest control research for agricultural applications. This report begins with an executive summary which may be as much as the novice may wish or need to read. Concise summaries of each of the papers included in the report are included in this section and significant findings of each are adequately described.

Part II contains the full text of all the resource papers presented at the APO Seminar. Topics covered in these papers include an overview of pest control in Asia, the influence of agrochemicals on agricultural productivity, education methods used to teach safe application and use of pesticides, pesticide safety evaluations systems, the evaluation of pathogenic microbial use in integrated pest management (IPM) methods, potential use of chemicals extracted from the seeds and leaves of neem trees in pesticide production, and the future of pesticide development and research.

The third section is comprised of country reports given by representatives from each of the APO member countries attending the conference, namely, Rep. of China, Fiji, Hong Kong, India, Indonesia, Iran, Malaysia, Nepal, Philippines, Sri Lanka, and Thailand. While Part II emphasized the theoretical aspect of pest control, the country reports provide information pertaining to the use and practical applications of these theories in real-world situations. The Seminar coordinators did not require a uniform reporting style in the preparation of these country reports so the amount of detail and types of information included varies from country to country. However, in general, the reports include some discussion on (1) the importance of agricultural

productivity to economic health, (2) descriptions of primary crops and productivity yields for several years, (3) types of pests encountered for each crop listed, (4) types of pest control methods currently in use and/or alternative methods currently being studied, (5) laws, legislation, government policy, and regulations affecting pest control development, and (6) environmental health and safety. It is important for the reader to note that, although the potential effects these pest control methods may have on wild animals or the natural ecosystem are discussed, these are treated as secondary concerns. The emphasis of these papers is on the economic well-being of agriculture and environmental concerns are basically limited to human health concerns, adverse impacts on secondary but useful plants or animals within agricultural ecosystems, and legislative limitations controlling pest control development.

Recommended for graduate and professional level libraries.