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Integrated Pest Management in the Global Arena

K. M. Maredia, D. Dakouo, and D. Mota-Sanchez
CABI Publishing, Wallingford, UK, and Cambridge,
USA, 2003

512 pp., \$149 (hard cover)
ISBN 0-85199-652-3

INTEGRATED PEST MANAGEMENT in the Global Arena is a large book with 39 chapters and >500 pages of text. Despite the wide range of topics and numerous contributing authors, the book is consistently well written and worth reading in its entirety or by selectively choosing particular topics.

The book should be a welcome reference for researchers and extension personnel across disciplines as well as for policy makers in government agencies and nongovernmental organizations working to promote integrated pest management (IPM) and sustainable agriculture. The reader can select any chapter and find a relevant discussion of IPM. As someone who teaches an IPM class, I found several new ideas and novel presentations of concepts that I will include in my class.

The book has four parts. Part 1 includes eight chapters discussing a wide range of emerging issues in IPM. Part 2, the largest section of the book with 20 chapters, details individual country experiences. These chapters are grouped into large geographic regions for convenience and some similarity of climate and sociopolitical factors. Part 3 describes IPM experiences of different international agencies working to promote and develop IPM. Part 4 brings the diverse topics set out in parts 1-3 to a conclusion and has recommendations for promoting global success of IPM. As might be expected given the number of programs and agencies discussed, a lot of jargon and acronyms are used throughout the book. Fortunately, the editors include in the front of the book a nearly complete glossary of acronyms and abbreviations.

Part 1 deals with issues in IPM and is not designed to be a stand-alone text on the topic. However, it does give a good overview of issues ranging from biological control to biotechnology and introduces the importance of policy change and sustainable development to the success of IPM. A major contribution in this part is the attention paid to social, political, and gender

issues. The point is made that IPM technologies, no matter what their level of effectiveness, often fail unless they have relevance to the accompanying social structures of the end users and consumers. These topics are not generally covered in other IPM books.

The country experiences in part 2 are extremely varied. Most of the chapters provide an overview of the political and environmental conditions before adopting IPM. In general, the countries reached a pest management crisis that resulted in policy change from promoting pesticide use to a more balanced policy favoring an integrated approach to pest management. Although difficult pest management was a common factor leading to the adoption of IPM policy and programs, it was often not the sole or even major motivation. For example, in Indonesia, pest issues in rice production threatened rice self-sufficiency. In the Philippines, farm profitability was a goal and in several West African nations reducing the cost of off-farm purchased inputs for agricultural production motivated a move to IPM. Although the situation in each country was unique and each country's motivation for adapting IPM was specific, there was a common need for policy change and attention to social structure. In most locations, IPM adoption relied on some variation of farmer field schools to build support for the new technologies.

On reading part 3, I was struck by bureaucracy of many of the international programs dealing with IPM. Nevertheless, international organizations have made real gains in promoting and building IPM capacity around the world. Several of the agencies are not interested in IPM as a stand-alone program but see IPM as critical to their mission of promoting sustainable agricultural and social systems in their host countries.

Part 4 summarizes and highlights the commonalities of the book and very briefly concludes by introducing trends and challenges that need to be addressed before IPM is globally adopted.

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