BOOK REVIEW

CRITICAL ISSUES IN INSECT PEST MANAGEMENT
Eds. G.S. DHALIWAL and E.A. HEINRICHS
Commonwealth Publishers, New Delhi, 1988
Rs. 895 US $ 80

For sustainable IPM adoption by the farming community, there is a need to continuously assess existing techniques and incorporate oncoming technologies. In an attempt to highlight existing technologies and emphasise the need to adopt more recent ones, the book under review has done commendable job enabling entomologists and the farming community to look into the practical aspects of IPM which have now become the back-bone of sustainable agriculture.

The chapters of this very elegant volume have been very carefully identified as also their contributors, both Indian and foreign. Commencing from the traditional Insect Pest Management, the book highlights the components of IPM adequately illustrating the achievements in relation to such crops as rice and cotton. IPM practices necessarily involve cultural control of insect pests, involving tactical use of regular farm practices to delay or reduce pest attack, emphasising the diversity of crop based management practices in diverse crop ecosystems. The impact of biocontrol agents and strategies involved are elegantly discussed, in particular their ecological role in agro-ecosystems, enabling the regulation of insect populations.

Recent advances related to host plant resistance to insects, the role of allelochemicals and volatiles and the role of natural pesticides, find an important place.

Pesticide management strategies and recent trends in the involvement of biotechnology in insect control have found important place in this volume.

In a major chapter, the requirements, possibilities and constraints of IPM implementation at the farmer’s level are discussed. The last chapter by Heinrichs on 'IPM in the 21st Century: Challenges and opportunities' discusses crop intensification programmes, role of IPM in crop protection and constraints involved, global IPM implementation strategies, the Asian prototype for IPM implementation and rightly concludes ‘the 21st century will see an expansion of IPM implementation to cover more crops and more regions of the world’. All entomologists interested in IPM would find this book not only useful, but also offering stimulatory reading.

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