

INTRODUCTION

The use of pesticides or compounds intended for the eradication of harmful organisms or pests is, next to the use of fertilizers, the modernization of agricultural methods and the selection of crops and livestock, still a main factor for obtaining a higher and better production. We use the word "still", since we are well aware of the hazards by using such toxic materials as pesticides, especially in a country like Indonesia, where no regulations concerning the toxic hazards of pesticides have been issued yet. Being informed of undesirable side effects caused by these pesticides, we cannot overlook the fact that the use of such toxic compounds, especially by unskilled workers, has its dangers for the general public. On the other hand we do know from experience that some truth lies in the following words quoted from SIE (1968) in his Ph. D. thesis: "A study of the use of pesticides may be more important in the future because they will interact strongly with other inputs in the later stages of agricultural development. The need for pesticides rises as development proceeds, because other inputs often create conditions that favour the spread of diseases and pests."

For more than ten years we have been aware of the importance of a study of the use of pesticides in Indonesia as mentioned by SIE. As a result our scientific and practical experiences as a pestcontrol advisor in this country have now been compiled in this book.

We have limited ourselves in mainly discussing such uses of pesticides of economic importance, i.e. mostly resulting into a great or total loss of production when not using them. With prospects for further use in the future, some unpublished experimental data or practical applications of new pesticides have been added. It is also of more practical value to limit ourselves to certain fields of applications like peasant agriculture (mainly the chapters 3-9), estate agriculture (mainly the chapters 10-14) and non-agricultural fields of application (chapter 15). A chapter (chapter 2) on the general and quantitative use of pesticides has been added which may be of value as a general survey or review. An index of pesticide formulations and ingredients may be useful for special purposes and an index of pests, diseases and their hosts is meant for use by the fieldworker acting as a plant doctor or a pestcontrol expert. Geographical territories and places mentioned in the text are to be looked up in figs. 1 and 2.

Most chapters begin with a paragraph on some statistics of the crops to be discussed. Even if the resources of such statistics may be qualitatively different, the reader still can see the possibilities of a good disease- and pestcontrol program by comparing the data of production and planted area of the period before the second world war, the period immediately after this war and the most recent statistics available.

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