Book Review

Spaar, D. (ed.). 2003. Zashchita Rastenii v Ustoichivykh Sistemach Zemleispolzovaniya [Plant Protection in Sustainable Systems of Land Use]. OOO "Variant", Torzhok, Vol. 1, 391 pp.; Vol. 2, 374 pp. (In Russian)

This two volume multi-authored book has been prepared and published as a result of a German-Russian program titled "Adaptation of Agricultural Education and Elevating Qualification in Russian Federation" financed by the German Federal Ministry of Consumer Protection, Food and Agriculture.

The book editor prof. Dieter Spaar invited the following twenty five authors from Byelorussia, Germany and Russia: W. Burth, F. Ellmer, C. Gienapp, V. Gutsche, V. Dolshenko, V. Isaitschev, M. Jahn, V. Kirjushin, D. Kuehne, A. Lysov, K. Novozhilov, V. Pavlyushin, B. Pallut, A. Postnikov, S. Soroka, L. Sorochinskii, V. Shchkalikov, P. Schumann, V. Shcxherbakov, T. Wetzel, G. Witt, A. Zakharenko, and V. Zakharenko to contribute to the book that is very well constructed and contains a great volume of valuable information concerned with plant protection.

Volume 1 starts with "Introduction" (p. 7) that explains the aim and scope of the book.

Chapter 1 "Pathogens and pests of cultivated plants" (p. 8–351) provides detailed characteristics of abiotic and biotic factors influencing growth and yield of cultivated plants. The chapter contains many figures, tables and voluminous useful information on taxonomy, biology and noxiousness of viruses, bacteria, fungi, nematodes, insects, mites, slugs, birds and rodents.

Chapter 2 "Population ecology of noxious organisms" (p. 352–387) provides basic information allowing to understand mass occurrence and population dynamics of plant pests and their control.

Volume 2 starts with the continuation of Chapter 2 (p. 7–43) covering topics of population dynamics of plants pests and methods of monitoring plant pests abundance. The chapter provides very clear overview on facts important for integrated pest management.

Chapter 3. "Significance and problems of plant protection" (p. 44–148 should read every plant protection specialist as it contains – in several tables and illustrations – extremely important and useful information concerning e.g. preventing of development of pests resistance to pesticides, pests spread to new territories etc.

Chapter 4 "Plant protection and sustainable systems of land use" (p. 149–201) provides definition of "sustainable land use", its criteria and various indicators. This is a very interesting and convincing discussion of necessity for "sustainable development" illustrated with several tables and drawings.

Volume 2 contains several useful appendices:

Appendix 1 Symptoms in cultivated plants of deficiency of mineral elements (p. 202–205)

Appendix 2. Scales of phenological development of plants (p. 206–239)

Appendix 3. Families and genera of viruses and viroids important for agriculture (p. 240–252)

Appendix 4. Phytopathogenic bacterial and diseases caused in cultivated plants (p. 253–262)

Appendix 5. Taxonomic groups of phytopathogenic fungi and diseases caused (p 263–275)

Appendix 6. Important phytonematodes noxious to plants (p. 276–277)

Appendix 7. Taxonomy of arthropods and their characteristics (p. 278–318)

Appendix 8. Rodents noxious for plant crops (p. 319)

Appendix 9. Classification of herbicides according to mechanism of activity and HRAC (p. 320–322)

Appendix 10. Laws and other acts concerning plant protection measures: A. Russian Federaton. B. European Union and Germany (p. 323–325).

The literature cited in the book is impressive as it contains 761 references.

I recommend this book to all plant protection specialists.

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