

FOREWORD

This special issue of *Insect Science and its Application* is devoted to selected review papers that were invited under a ICIPE/UNEP joint project for the publications "Beyond Silent Spring" and "Global Review of Integrated Pest Management". As is well known, the book *Silent Spring* by Rachel Carson, published almost 34 years ago, aroused widescale public concern about the excessive use of a bewildering array of synthetic pesticides and other agrochemicals. The book triggered a worldwide effort to check the hazardous effects of such chemicals and also led to the development of the Integrated Pest Management (IPM) approach as an environmentally sound alternative to the sole use of chemical pesticides for protection against pests. Since then, the IPM approach has spread far and wide, and most such programmes have emphasised reduction in the use of chemical pesticides. It is in the above context that the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) and the International Centre of Insect Physiology and Ecology (ICIPE) undertook a joint project to evaluate the progress made since the publication of *Silent Spring* with respect to the successes, failures and limitations of various IPM programmes, their impact on the environment and the direction that IPM should take hereafter. The exercise was also to include an evaluation of current practices in chemical safety, particularly as it relates to IPM.

For this, various experts were invited to write review papers covering (a) a survey of IPM-related activities and their impact during the past two decades in the tropical regions of Asia, Africa and South America, and (b) an appraisal of the scientific and technological advances in areas that could set new trends for environmentally safe IPM. These reviews were presented and discussed at a Planning Workshop convened by ICIPE/UNEP in Nairobi in September 1992. On the basis of the discussions and the recommendations made therefrom, Prof. Helmut F. van Emden and Dr. David Peakall were entrusted with the task of writing the entire book "Beyond Silent Spring", utilising wherever necessary the material provided by world experts in the invited review papers. At the same Planning Workshop, it was also suggested that the reviews on the status of IPM should be published as a separate book and the expert reviews should be considered for publication in an issue of this journal.

In accordance with the above recommendations, the book *Beyond Silent Spring* has been recently published by Chapman & Hall, UK. The reviews on the status of IPM in Africa, Asia and South America have been published for UNEP by John Wiley & Sons Ltd in a book entitled *Integrated Pest Management in the Tropics: Current Status and Future Prospects*. Seven other of the expert reviews on the scientific and technological advances in IPM-related areas have been selected for publication in this issue of *Insect Science and its Application*.

This issue is the last one (No. 6) of Volume 15 of *Insect Science and its Application* for the year 1994 and the last in my term as Editor-in-Chief. The editorial team for the journal very much regrets the delays in the publication of this as well as the previous issues of this volume. These delays were unavoidably caused by major managerial and organisational changes in the journal secretariat and at the International Centre of Insect Physiology and Ecology (ICIPE), the journal's sponsors, during 1994 and 1995, followed by my own retirement and departure from ICIPE in mid-1995. During this transitional period, Prof. Richard Mwangi, the Associate Editor of the journal and the Dean of the Faculty of Sciences at the University of Nairobi, and Dr. Annalee Mengech, Principal Science Editor at the ICIPE, have been devoting much of their time, over and above their regular assignments, in carrying out the editorial as well as other work for the publication of the journal. I wish to express my deep gratitude to these colleagues for their contributions.

Finally, I am pleased to announce that Dr. Hans R. Herren, Director General of ICIPE, has kindly accepted to be the Editor-in-Chief starting with Volume 16 (1995). I extend my warmest wishes for the continued success of ISA to both Dr. Herren and to the recently appointed Scientific Editor, Mrs Daisy Ouya.

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