

Book Review

Major Spices of India - Crop Management and Post Harvest Technology: J S PRUTHI, Publications and Information Division, Indian Council of Agricultural Research, Krishi Anusandhan Bhavan, Pusa, New Delhi - 110 012. 1993 pp. xii + 514 Rs. 200.00 ISBN No. 81-237-0038-5.

India is the largest producer, consumer and exporter of spices in the world. Almost every State and Union Territory grows one spice or the other under varied agro-climatic situations. Of late, a number of countries have taken to spices production and trade. Taking into account the global need for spices, it is imperative to increase productivity and upgrade quality to step up India's export to meet the stiff competition from these countries. In this context, a comprehensive book on agrotechnology of spices including post harvest technology and quality aspects has been a long felt need. The book under review meets this requirement to a great extent and provides authentic information particularly on post harvest technology and quality aspects of six major spices viz., black pepper, small and large cardamoms, chillies, ginger and turmeric. Dr. Pruthi is a well known scientist and has already authored two books on spices which were well received and serve as authoritative source of information to those concerned with spices. This volume according to the author "presents in a concise form the available voluminous information to interested readers,

notably growers and students". To that extent, the reviewers feel that this book serves the purpose.

The book consists of 8 chapters each ending in a select bibliography and with 17 annexures providing supplementary information on various aspects of crop management. The introductory chapter mainly deals with nomenclature and classification of spices, organisations dealing with spices research and development, world trade and future plan for spices development. Chapters 2 to 6 deal with all aspects of black pepper, cardamom (small and large), chillies, ginger and turmeric, respectively. Chapter 7 provides information on quality control and national and international standards of spices. Chapter 8 suggests further avenues of spices research and development. The annexures provide mostly information on crop management aspects.

However the book, being a compilation, particularly in the field of crop management, there is repetition of a few subjects, for example, nursery diseases of cardamom. Barring a few typographical errors, the reviewers feel that this book warrants a place on the shelves of any scientist, technologist or student dealing with spices. The available references on the subject are also compiled in the bibliography which will definitely be of use to research workers.

(K SIVARAMAN & K V PETER, Indian Institute of Spices Research, Marikunnu P.O., Calicut - 673 012, Kerala, India.)