

INTRODUCTION AND OBJECTIVES

POST-HARVEST LOSSES OF TROPICAL GRAINS WITH SPECIAL REFERENCE TO AFRICA: AN INTERIM BIBLIOGRAPHY COMPILED BY D.E. STILES, A.L.A. LONDON: COMMONWEALTH SECRETARIAT, 1977.

Introduction This bibliography of post-harvest losses of tropical grains with special reference to Africa has been prepared for delegates attending the Conference on Post-harvest grain losses to be held in West Africa in April 1977.

Dorothy Parker, in her introduction to the International Bibliography of Rice Research - (Parker, 1963) says: "As anyone problems are encountered than can be anticipated at the beginning of a project ... Haste and excellence are not compatible in bibliographic work".

This is all too true of this bibliography, hence the inclusion of the word 'interim' in the sub-title - I hope that there will be an opportunity to produce a more definitive edition with improvements to the layout and arrangement (e.g. to adopt a standardised method of citation), as well as including additional material.

Objectives Recently there has been noticable interest taken in the losses, quantitative and qualitative, incurred during and after harvesting. This bibliography is intended to indicate areas in which research has taken place to control these losses (and to show up areas in which research is needed). In particular it is intended to bring this material to the notice of interested parties in Africa where much of the material, unfortunately, is not available.

Adimorah (1976) quoting Lawani (1975) states that 37.1% of the periodicals which publish papers on tropical and sub-tropical agriculture are not available in any library in Nigeria and says that very few of those which are available are held by many libraries. Adimorah complains that users in developing countries fail to avail themselves of the information available and states that his organisation's Tropical Grain Legume Bulletin is more in demand by scientists in developed countries than by those in developing countries.

He goes on to comment on the complete absence of an information network, data banks or depositories of scientific literature in most developing countries. It is with this gap in mind that this bibliography has been compiled and in order for it to be available in time for the first of the planned two conferences it has had to be compiled in haste, often simply by copying or adapting references obtained from other sources.

Another bibliography on this subject has just been issued by the Tropical Products Institute (Adams, 1977). It is hoped that the two bibliographies will be complementary. Adams concentrates on the quantification of losses whilst this present bibliography includes literature on measures taken to control losses.

Coverage The bibliography concentrates on farmer storage of edibles, especially in Africa, but is not confined to these subjects - e.g. many pests are now worldwide; on-farm storage methods in other developing areas could be relevant to Africa. The edibles included are cereal and legume grains, cassava and yams. Coverage includes:- literature which quantifies losses; literature which examines the causes of the losses; literature which explores ways of preventing or reducing losses; literature which deals with treatment of damaged stocks; other storage literature.

Arrangement There are five sections:-

1. Agriculture in general - drawing attention to works which may be of value for further research into post-harvest losses.
2. Crops: post-harvest losses and their control - this is subdivided into specific crops
3. Crops: losses and their control during post-harvest operations - subdivided by specific aspects.
4. Author index
5. Subject index - this is not exhaustive and is mainly intended to draw attention to works which cover more than one subject and are therefore arranged in the main sequence under the subject which is dealt with most extensively (or, in cases of doubt, under the subject which comes first in the method of arrangement). Index references are not necessarily made to items appearing under appropriate general headings or links in chain, e.g. works on peas will be found under the general heading for legumes, 2.2. as well as under the specific heading for peas, 2.2.3. but are not necessarily indexed under the general heading or intermediate steps in the chain.

Sources Much of the material has been obtained from the following:-

Information; Tropical Storage Abstracts; Tropical Stored Products
International Bibliography of Rice Research.

References in the Preface

ADAMS, J.M. (1977). A cross-referenced bibliography on post-harvest losses in cereals and pulses with particular reference to tropical and subtropical countries. London: Tropical Products Institute, 1977. (Report G110).

ADIMORAH, E.N.O. (1976). Problems of scientific information work in developing countries. Information Scientist, 1976, 10 (4), 139 - 148.

LAWANI, S.M. (1975). An assessment of the holdings of tropical agricultural periodicals in Nigerian libraries. Nigerian Libraries, 1975, 10 (1): 1 - 8.

PARKER, Dorothy (1963). Introduction IN INTERNATIONAL RICE COMMISSION. International Bibliography of Rice Research.

D.E. Stiles