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Book review

L. Chiarappa (Ed.): Crop loss assessment methods. FAO Manual on the evaluation and prevention of losses by pests, diseases and weeds. Published by arrangement with the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations by the Commonwealth Agricultural Bureaux, Farnham Royal, Slough SL2 3BN, England, 1971. Price £ 5.

This FAO manual is loose-leaf to allow insertion of supplements and amended pages, obtainable by subscription.

The manual has four sections: Introduction, Field experiments and Sample surveys, Methods, and Miscellanea. In 'Methods' techniques and apparatus, as well as worked out examples of techniques of measuring disease with 84 host-pathogen combinations are described. 'Miscellanea' contains useful conversion tables and diagrams to determine growth stages of important crops.

The list of contributors is impressive. The book will help those in charge of crop loss assessment programmes, especially in areas where this type of work is being newly developed. The manual will be a stimulus towards more work in crop loss assessment, for which there certainly is a need. In future supplements extensions are desirable not only in the technical sections, but also with regard to principles and backgrounds of crop loss assessment.

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