

The list of Ten Houten's activities in the professional field is impressive. He graduated at a time when society had hardly a place to offer a biologist. He lived to feel the hardships of war, and later experienced the changes in society which suddenly seemed to open unlimited horizons for biological research. And by helping to shape biological research on behalf of crop protection, he has carried the torch of our predecessors, such as Ritzema Bos, Westerdijk, Quanjier, and Leefmans, in a honourful way: he has been instrumental in broadening the social impact of plant pathology.

We all join in wishing Ten Houten many more fruitful years in teaching at Wageningen University, now that the heavy burden of his Directorship of IPO has been taken from his shoulders.

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Book review

L. Bos & G. S. Roosje (ed.): *Van plantenziektenbestrijding naar gewasbescherming. Een bezinning naar aanleiding van 25 jaar IPO-onderzoek.* (With a summary: From disease and pest control to crop protection; a reflexion on the occasion of 25 years IPO research). 123 pp., Meded. No. 666, Instituut voor Plantenziektenkundig Onderzoek, Wageningen, 1974. Price Dfl. 15.

In the preface of this book, written to commemorate the 25th Anniversary of the Institute of Phytopathological Research (IPO), Wageningen, the Netherlands, the chairman of the board stresses that this book is more than a survey of the research on crop protection carried out at IPO during the last quarter of a century. From this period lines of development are extrapolated into the future as well. Thus, important material is provided for the institute's future research policy, and a contribution is made towards a general insight into crop protection problems.

In the course of time, emphasis has shifted from control of individual disease agents to more integrated systems of crop protection exploiting natural regulatory systems and genetic plant resistance.

Four chapters (2-5) deal with diseases and pests in general, their importance and the indispensability of scientific research. Diseases and pests are defined as natural phenomena that come to the fore especially in crops where natural diversity is restricted (2). Exact data on crop losses due to diseases and pests are rare, but there are many examples indicating their tremendous direct and indirect impacts on agriculture and human society as a whole (3). The future of diseases and pests in a highly technical and chemically regulated agriculture or in a more biologically treated agriculture are hard to predict. Since crop husbandry is continuously changing and there is an increasing international exchange of plants materials and products, the distribution and occurrence of diseases and pests continuously change, demanding constant attention by scientists (4). Most applied research in crop protection has been concentrated at IPO and has certainly contributed to the increase in agricultural production in the Netherlands (5).

In five chapters (6-10) IPO research on prevailing trends in diseases and pests is discussed.

During the first years of IPO, research on insects and mites aimed at refining the chemical control of important pests in various crops. Research on biological and integrated control started in 1956, attempting to benefit agriculture by employing natural regulatory mechanisms.

In nematode research (7) study of population dynamics has been emphasized as an essential basis for practical control.

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