

BOOK REVIEWS

Indian Soil Science Literature—A Select Bibliography 1966–1977. By Dr. S. B. Varade, R. Subbaiah and J. V. Mane, 1981, (Published by Agricole Publishing Academy, D 76 Panchsheel Enclave, New Delhi 17.) pp. 501, Price Rs. 200.00.

Research contribution in the field of Soil Science is progressively increasing in India, through research papers and theses and dissertations submitted to different universities in India for obtaining Postgraduate degrees. One engaged in research needs to take stock of achievements and accomplishments and to carefully assess the gaps to formulate research programmes.

Research workers have access to Agricultural Index, Bibliography of Agriculture, Bibliography of Agriculture for South East Asian countries and abstracting periodicals such as soils and fertilizers. These sources provide extensive information covering all the countries of the world. In the vastness of the information from those sources, those interested in working under the conditions in India may not be able to get information on specific items of research output in India. Such a lacuna has been fulfilled by the present publication under review. The subject matter has been subdivided into well recognised disciplines such as Soil Physics, Chemistry, biology, classification and genesis, survey and mapping, fertility and improvement. Soil resources and management soil salinity and reclamation, soil erosion and conservation and clay mineralogy aspects have also been covered in the bibliography.

The bibliography covers the publications over a period of 12 years from 1966–1977, and carries subject and author index for quick cross reference.

The style followed in the bibliography appearing in one volume is totally different from the well recognised publications such as Agricultural Index and Bibliography of Agriculture. Under each subject, bibliography has been shown year by year with alphabetical arrangement. It would have been better if the bibliography under each subject were arranged in alphabetical order and indicating the year of publication against each entry. Such an arrangement would have helped quick retrieval of information for all the 12 years covered in alphabetical order.

A few errors in entries which could easily be verified, and these could have been avoided e.g. (i) Page 10, entry No. 71. The Ph.D., thesis was submitted to Tennessee University, USA and not to University of Agricultural Sciences, Bangalore. (ii) Page 55, entry 501. (iii) Page 177, entry 1713, Spelling of author is incorrect.

The price of the publication appears to be high. All the same the publication provides information on Indian Literature for quick reference and to that extent it is useful.

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Studies on Leprosy—by N. Veeraraghavan, (Voluntary Health Services Medical Centre, Adyar, Madras) 1982, pp. 121. Price not given.

Studies on Leprosy by Dr. N. Veeraraghavan is a novel and unorthodox attempt at publishing research results in the form of a book. Dr. Veeraraghavan claims that he has cultivated successfully *Mycobacterium leprae* in a synthetic medium. Also he has used this medium to screen antileprosy drugs. The major lacuna in the book is that the author does not provide the composition of the medium 'Veeraraghavan'—without this essential information the book is virtually useless to other workers in the fields. This drawback has now been obviated by the publication of the article 'Method of Cultivation of M. Leprae' by Veeraraghavan in *Current Science* (Vol. 52, 1983, Jan. 20, p. 60). Any claim in science, much less a breakthrough which Mr. Veeraraghavan claims to have achieved, must be reproduced in other laboratories. The presentation of factual information in the book is rather sketchy. However, this reviewer recommends this book to be read by leprosy workers.

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