

INTRODUCTORY REMARKS

The present strategy in pest control has taken a swing from routine killing to pest management. Insects are not born pests; they become pests, through the influence of biotic or abiotic factors regulating their existence, including activities of man. Therefore, our goal as entomologists should be to prevent them from attaining pest status.

Each organism in this universe has been provided by nature with a place to live and a job to perform in the ecosystem. A species is certainly not designed to damage or harm the ecosystem unless it is compelled to do so, intentionally or unintentionally, by the activities of another species or some condition of nature itself. It is only when this occurs and the damage caused by an insect population increases above the economic threshold that it becomes a pest. Therefore, the pest population should not be allowed to go beyond this threshold level. The solution thus lies in imposing a check on the population.

Fluctuations caused in the population are due to two factors, mortality and natality. If both of these factors could be checked in such a way that a sort of balance is maintained between them as nature intends, the pest would be possible to manage. This can be hopefully achieved by entomologists employing integrated control measures.

I suggest that under an integrated control procedure we should aim to coordinate our efforts between long term control methods and short term control methods, irrespective of that whether they turn out to be a combination of chemical and biological controls or biological and cultural controls or two different agents under one type of control. As an example, combining methods like biological control or male sterilization techniques may be employed as long term control and the use of an insecticide which gives immediate check on population. If these are integrated and employed, then, when the population is increasing, a short term control measure may be employed to bring an immediate decline in the population, while a long term control measure is being introduced in an effort to keep the population at a more permanent safe level.

It is very encouraging to note that considerable interest has been shown in the integrated control at this Conference as is evident by the several papers which will now be presented.

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