

## INTRODUCTORY REMARKS

Research and development into new and ancient physical methods, for providing answers to the insect control problems, has been placed in high priority by many research organisation.

One factor contributing to this is the fact that in spite of the impressive list of new and efficient insecticides on the market today, very few of them can be considered for application in the stored products field. Even the very few, approved for use by World or National Health Authorities, face the relatively new problem in this field, namely insect resistance. We know today, that in some cases, the cross resistance, acquired by some insect species may render them immune even to insecticides, to which they have not yet been exposed! Thus, continued reliance on the use of insecticides to solve stored product insects problems depends on the resolution of two inherent and very significant side effects: insecticidal residues and insect resistance.

Physical methods, on the other hand, have been found to be most suitable for application to the stored products field. Grain and other dry products are confined in grain silos or smaller storage containers, can be subjected to physical treatment such as: cooling of the grain bulk, alteration of the composition of atmospheric gases, exposure to the different wave lengths of the electromagnetic spectrum, etc.

Research on some of these methods have already very applicable results. However a long list of possible methods opens up a vast and most promising field of research and development.

We are very fortunate at this symposium panel to be able to listen to leading experts on various aspects of Physical Control. We also have in the audience international authorities on this field, and I am sure that the discussion will be most fruitful.

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Convenor