VEGETABLES IN THE TROPICS

H.D. TINDALL

M
MACMILLAN

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Preface

The main objective of this handbook is to provide information on vegetable crops grown in the tropics which can be applied in practice. The increasing populations of many tropical countries have led to a new awareness of the importance of vegetable crops as a source of food, accompanied by the realization that many vegetables can supply essential nutritional materials which may not be readily available from other sources.

In addition to practical information on crop production, further details are given to provide a more comprehensive understanding of some of the related scientific principles described. Much of the information on various groups of crops should help readers to understand the relation between cultural requirements of closely-related species.

Significant technological advances have been made in recent years which can lead to increased efficiency of vegetable production in many parts of the world, but some notable advances in plant breeding, plant propagation, soil fertility improvement, irrigation practices, crop protection, mechanization and post-harvest technology can only be applied in limited areas. Traditional and labour-intensive practices are still of primary importance elsewhere in the tropics, where new and desirable technological developments can only be adopted if other resources become available.

These resources include the provision of all-weather roads for the transport of produce to local or regional markets, assistance with marketing through co-operative organizations, and the construction of dams or other means of providing water for irrigation. Most of these resources can only be supplied through appropriate government agencies. An effective extension service can assist the grower in obtaining some of the basic materials he requires to improve his efficiency but some essential items such as tools, seeds, fertilizers and pesticides are normally available only from commercial sources and the producer may find his activities limited until these become fully developed.

The handbook is intended to provide a comprehensive account of the principles and practices currently in use, so that students, vegetable growers, extension officers, research workers and administrators can appreciate the potential which exists for increasing the production of vegetable crops in tropical regions.

Abbreviations

Afr.	Africa(n)	kg	kilogramme
Amer.	America	Lat.Amer.	Latin America
Arg.	Argentina	m	metre
As.	Asia	Mal.	Malaysia
Aus.	Australia	Mex.	Mexico
Bangl.	Bangladesh	mm	millimetre
Bol.	Bolivia	N.	North
Braz.	Brazil	Neth.	Netherlands
C.	Central	Nig.	Nigeria
Carib.	Caribbean	Pacif.	Pacific
Chin.	China	Pak.	Pakistan
Col.	Colombia	Pap.N.Guin.	Papua New Guinea
cm	centimetre	Philipp.	Philippines
C.Rica	Costa Rica	Polyn.	Polynesia
cv(s)	cultivar(s)	P.Rico	Puerto Rico
E.	East	S.	South
Ecu.	Ecuador	Sen.	Senegal
Egy.	Egypt(ian)	Sol.	Solomon
Eng.	English	Sp.	Spanish
Eth.	Ethiopia	Sri La.	Sri Lanka
FAO	Food and Agriculture Organization	subsp.	subspecies
Fr.	French	Sud.	Sudan
Ger.	German	Swah.	Swahili
Gha.	Ghana	Tanz.	Tanzania
Guy.	Guyana	t/ha	tonnes per hectare
ha	hectare	Thai.	Thailand
Haw.	Hawaii	Trin.	Trinidad
Ind.	India	trop.	tropical
Indon.	Indonesia	Ug.	Uganda
Is.	Island(s)	var.	variety
Jam.	Jamaica	Venez.	Venezuela
Jap.	Japan	W.	West
		W.I.	West Indies