

production is more or less on par with other inputs of irrigation, fertilizer and residual unmeasured factors. While there has been steady increase in adoption of modern varieties in all the countries studied, only in a few instances there have been some declines in the percentage of area covered by the modern varieties and these are accounted for by high pest or disease incidence or low market price for the commodity. On the question of size of farm and adoption trends, no definite answer emerges though in most cases small as well as large farmers have adopted equally well the modern varieties. One aspect which has not been considered is that not all large farms are covered fully

by modern varieties, there being conventional varieties grown in the same farm along with the modern varieties.

This is a very useful compilation of relevant information, with critical analysis of the same to bring out certain basic truth. Unfortunately, several errors seem to have crept in. This is the first time I see in such a few pages so many errors in publication coming out of IRRI.

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ANNOUNCEMENTS

BRITISH ASSOCIATION FOR THE ADVANCEMENT OF SCIENCE, LONDON—YOUNG SCIENTISTS AWARDS

The British Association for the Advancement of Science, London, launched awards for young scientists and investigators at its annual meeting at the University of Sussex during August 1983. The awards are intended for all young people aged 8–12 who are members of organisations or clubs, though such work may be carried out during school hours devoted to topic work.

There are three levels for the awards, bronze, silver and gold. Everybody starts from the bronze, for which three badges are available progressively for different levels of attainment. However, if science is already a strong feature of the organisation some young people may go on for silver having gained only one bronze award. The awards are made for series of tasks and/or

projects centered on investigation or 'design and make'. The work will be assessed in the light of personal ability persistence, interest and effort. The challenge is of increasing standard towards silver and gold.

The awards are in the form of attractive metal and enamel badges together with certificates. They will be presented to the young people on suitable occasions.

It is hoped that the awards will encourage young people to enjoy science and technology and develop their ability to investigate in a scientific way.

Further information may be had from: The British Association, Fortress House, 23 Savile Row, London W1X 1AB. (*Chemistry in Britain*, Vol. 19, No. 10, October 1983, p. 846).

PERKINS ENGINES OF U.K.

Perkins Engines of the U.K. has won a major international award from an affiliate of UNESCO, the United Nations Educational Scientific and Cultural Organisation. It is in recognition of the group's more than 50 years technological leadership of the diesel engine industry and the award is made by 'Institut International de Promotion et Prestige' to companies achieving 'outstanding international prestige and rep-

utation in their particular field'. Accepting the award, Perkins' Managing Director Mr. Jim Felker said that: 'It is truly an international award, for Perkins, although based in Britain, is truly an international company with a network of more than 4,000 distributors, dealers and parts stockists in more than 160 countries'.