
Book reviews

Stanton, W.R.; Flach, M. (eds): Sago, the Equatorial Swamp as a Natural Resource. World Crops: Production, Utilization and Description, vol. 1. The Hague; M. Nijhoff 1981. 258 pp., 41 figs., 40 tabs., 15 plates. Hard bound hfl 85,—.

Sago – The Equatorial Swamp as a Natural Resource, inspires a lively curiosity for anyone who reads it, and more so for an Agro-forester.

The authors of the various topics on the Sagopalm and its uses write not only for the scientist but also for other workers in the field of Agro-forestry. Their discussions were simple and clear.

Sagopalm (*Metroxylon Sagu*) is a native of South-east Asian swamps and has many species which inhabit various degrees of wetness in the region. However, the authors of its geography and ecology give little or no information of the possibility of growing this palm or other species of it, in the Tropical swamps of other regions outside South-east Asia.

The history of Sagopalm cultivation and utilization is carefully traced and its primeval culture stressed. It seems that in spite of its economic importance little has been done to improve its cultivation and utilization processes. It is worthy of note how different peoples of the palm-growing region value

and utilize the different varieties of the Sago palm. dependent on their needs and beliefs.

Written by experts on the subjects discussed, this book is a great source of information on a very important swamp plant of South-east Asia, which economically can hardly be rated below other palms of the Swamps.

Very few books on one species of plant has been produced collectively by so many experts and presented in such a comprehensive manner as Sago. The Equatorial Swamp as a Natural Resource.

Even for one who knew little or nothing of the palm, it is easy to recognize it after reading the discourse by so many experts, who treated it from its natural habitat to the conversion of its pith into flour and chemical oils.

The statistical data, photographs and maps which accompanied most of the topics discussed, give credits to the competence of the authors and editors; and their desires to make the book an easy text book.

Sago. The Equatorial Swamp as a Natural Resource has revealed the importance of Agro-forestry conferences.

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