PREFACE

Soybean cultivation under item 2 of the 20-point Programme (efforts to increase production of oil seeds and pulses) has recently acquired much importance. Statistics show that acreage under its farming has been increasing year after year and reached a proposed target of 13 lakh hectares in Madhya Pradesh at the end of sixth five-year plan. In Sagar division alone, it is being sown in 19,100 hectares (1984). Correlated with this national effort has been the emergence of insect pest problem of the crop and hence the present work.

Among the notable features-results of the present studies may be mentioned the succession of insect pests on the crop from sowing till harvest (Insect calender), the enlisting of girdle beetle, stem-fly, leaf miner and leaf folder as serious pests of soybean in Sagar region, relative efficacy of some widely recommended contact and systemic insecticides and evaluation of monocrotophos (0.03% spray) as one of the best chemical and broad spectrum insecticide, the increased percentage in oil and protein content as a result of insecticidal treatment/pest infestation, potentiality of rice weevil, Sitophilus oryzae to become an important pest of stored soybean, and screening and gradation of 40 recent cultivars to pest susceptibility. The varieties JS 73-22, JS 71-5 and JS 78-41 have been found as most suitable cultivars.