

Proceedings of the 64th Annual Meeting of the Indian Phytopathological Society meeting held during December 2-4, 2011

The Department of Plant Sciences, School of Life Sciences, University of Hyderabad has organized **National Symposium and 64th Annual Meeting of the Indian Phytopathological Society (December 2-4, 2011)**:

A national symposium entitled “Biology of Infection, Immunity, and Disease Control in Pathogen-Plant Interactions” and the 64th Annual Meeting of the Indian Phytopathological Society (IPS) was organized during 2-4 December 2011. The programme was inaugurated by Prof. E. Hari Babu, Pro Vice Chancellor, UoH. It was a very special occasion for University of Hyderabad because the scientists/teachers working in Plant Pathology from different parts of the country visiting our University was a rare possibility. This has happened because we had symposium, brain storming session, awardees, award lectures, Narasimhan award contestants etc had to meet on this occasion.



Lighting of lamp by Prof. Pratibha Sharma, Secretary, IPS during inaugural function along with Prof. E. Hari Babu, Prof. M. Ramanadham, Prof. T.S. Thind, and Prof. A.R. Podile

Several leading plant pathologists participated in the Brain Storming Session and made excellent presentations to develop a road map in the form of “Plant Pathology in India: Vision 2030”. Compilation of the presentations in this session was published and released by the IPS during the meeting. The IPS honoured two very senior plant pathologists Dr. Y.L. Nene, former DDG of ICRISAT and Prof. Anupam Varma of IARI for their Life Time Achievements with the award of the IPS instituted in the name of a great plant pathologist Prof. A.P. Mishra.

Several researchers, from all over the country, showed interest and submitted as many as 180 abstracts



Prof. A.P. Mishra Life time achievement award for 2010 presented to Dr. Y.L. Nene by Prof. E. Hari Babu, Pro Vice Chancellor during Inaugural Function



Prof. A.P. Mishra Life time achievement award for 2011 presented to Prof. Anupam Varma by Prof. M. Ramanadham, Dean, Life Sciences during Inaugural Function

for this meeting. Twenty invited speakers and 12 young researchers made presentations in the symposium and 9 students participated in the Prof. M.J. Narasimhan academic merit contest. Besides these oral presentations, Dr. Ramesh Sonti, Deputy Director, CCMB, Hyderabad, set the tone of the symposium as key note speaker explaining his work on host-pathogen interactions in rice-*Xanthomonas*

system. Life time contributions made by Prof. A.N. Mukhopadhyay, former Vice Chancellor, Assam Agricultural University remained highlight of the symposium with his plenary lecture on 3rd December 2011.

Organizing committee worked under the Chief Patronship of the Vice Chancellor who chaired first meeting of the local organizing committee. Subsequent meetings were conducted by the Dean of the School and Head of the Department of Plant Sciences. Finally three or four rounds of meetings of different committees helped in successful organization of the meeting. Several delegates appreciated the team effort while they were in University and also sent appreciation emails after they went back to their place.



Participants of IPS and national symposium attending technical session in DST auditorium

The poster awards were bagged by research scholars working with Dr. K. Gopinath, and Prof. Appa Rao Podile, and one was a combined work of ICRISAT, Hyderabad and Osmania University Hyderabad. Two best poster presentation awards were bagged by participants from IARI, New Delhi. Two young researchers' presentations by Dr. Madhumiat Dasgupta and Dr. Anil Kondreddy were awarded with best oral presentations award. Dr. Anil got his Ph.D. recently under the guidance of Prof. Appa Rao Podile and Dr. Madhumita is from Dr. Ramesh Sonti's lab in CCMB, Hyderabad. Ms. T. Swaroopa Rani (Ph.D. student working with Prof. Appa Rao Podile) was adjudged as the winner of the Prof. M.J. Narasimhan Academic Contest for the year 2011, which is a prestigious award of the IPS. Ms. Swaroopa Rani would be presented with a medal, merit certificate and a citation in the next annual meeting of the IPS. Ms. Bidisha Sharma from Gauhati University, Assam was awarded consolation prize for the Prof. M.J. Narasimhan Academic Contest. Dr. Debashish Dey bagged another prestigious award of the IPS for the best poster of the annual meeting in the name of Dr. K.P.V. Menon for the work done during his Ph.D. in the Department of Plant Sciences.



Dr. K. Anil receiving young researcher presentation for best presenters from Dr. Y.L. Nene in the valedictory function

The GBM of the IPS and the valedictory session of the meeting were held on December 4th evening which was well attended. Dr. Y.L. Nene was the chief guest and distributed the prizes to the winners of the poster/oral presentations. The meeting was well attended all through and the brain-storming session, technical sessions, award sessions etc. were all lively with active participation in discussions on several topics. The University of Hyderabad thanked the Indian Phytopathological Society for giving an opportunity to hold the 64th Annual Meeting of the Society.