

Proceedings of 67th Annual General Body Meeting and National Symposium on “Understanding host-pathogen interaction through science of Omics” held at Indian Institute of Spices Research, Kozhikode (Calicut), Kerala during March 16-17, 2015

I heartily welcome M. Anandaraj, President of the Society. It is indeed my proud privilege to welcome all the members of the Society, who have shown their keen interest in the affairs of the Society and have taken trouble to come over here at Calicut to attend this Annual Meeting and National Symposium.

I am happy to inform the house that the journal Indian Phytopathology is up-to-date. March issue of the journal is in process of publication. The contents with abstract is available online. The revision of rating of the journal is being taken up with the NAAS and for the purpose the necessary steps have already been taken. Efforts are being made to get better rating and boost image of the journal nationally and internationally.

Digitized volumes of Indian Phytopathology Vol. 1 (1948) to Vol. 67 (2014): Digitization of all previous issues (back volumes) of Journal has been done and ready for sale in the form of DVD on payment basis. Any interested member can purchase the archives of 65 years by paying Rs. 5000.00 (Rs. Five Thousand only) and Institutional libraries can purchase at cost of Rs. 50,000.00 (Rs. Fifty thousand only).

Copy editing services: To raise the quality of Indian Phytopathology and also reduce the load of editing/proof reading by editorial members, the copy editing is now being done by Dr. S.D. Tyagi from first issue of 2015.

The editorial pattern of the Indian Phytopathology has been modified, consists of one Editor-in-Chief, Senior Editors and Editors (5 for each disciplines viz., Bacteriology, Fungal Pathology, Mycology, Nematology and Virology).

AWARDS

Declaration of awards

The EC felt that the recommendations made by the Screening Committee needs to be reviewed, hence no formal announcement could be made for declaration of the award. A committee, consisting Secretary, President and Immediate Past President will scrutinize the recommendations and finalize the award result.

Prof. M.J. Narasimahan Academic Merit Award

The judging committee recommended the name of Dr. Sushil Kumar Sharma, IARI, New Delhi for Prof. M.J. Narasimahan Academic Merit Award for the paper presentation on “*Genome characterization, infectivity and development of immunodiagnosics for badnaviruses associated with banana*”.

The name of Dr. Nirbhay Kumar Kushwaha, JNU, New Delhi is recommended for Commendation Award of Prof. M.J. Narasimahan Academic Merit Award for the paper presentation on “*Histone 2B interacts with replication initiator protein of Chilli leaf curl virus and confers resistance in chilli*”

K.P.V. Menon Best Poster Award

The judging committee recommended the following names for Prof. KPV Menon Best Poster Award:

Poster No. and title	Authors	Position
Poster 101: Marker assisted pyramiding of three genes governing blast resistance (Pi54, Pi1, Pita) into a popular indica rice variety “Samba Mahsuri”	S Gopala Krishnan, R Rathour, P Dwivedi, G Dhawan, U D Singh, T R Sharma, M Variar, S K Prashanthi, P K Bhowmick, M Nagarajan & A K Singh	First
Poster 23: Diagnostics and management of fusarium wilt infecting tomato and chilli	M Loganathan, V Venkataravanappa, S Saha, S Tripathi, M K Verma & A B Rai	Second
Poster 31: A reverse transcription loop mediated isothermal amplification assay for rapid detection of Dasheen mosaic virus in <i>Amorphophallus paeoniifolius</i>	T Makesh Kumar & S Kamala	Third
Poster 60: Microarray analysis of <i>Ralstonia solanacearum</i> induced gene expression in <i>Arabidopsis thaliana</i>	Devendra Kumar Choudhary, Vibhuti Munjal, Neelam Sheoran, R K Saritha, S Gopalakrishnan, Pratibha Sharma, Rashmi Aggarwal & A Kumar	Fourth
Poster 38: Real time loop mediated isothermal amplification – an advanced tool for the field diagnosis of <i>Ralstonia solanacearum</i> biovar 3 infecting ginger	T P Prameela, R Suseela Bhai, A Kumar & M Anandaraj	Fifth
Poster 49: Pathogen modulation on host machinery for gaining virulence	Shweta Roy, Priya Gupta & Ashis Kumar Nandi	Sixth

Treasurer’s report (2014)

The report was presented by the Dr. Dinesh Singh, Treasurer, IPS. A marked improvement in collection of fund has been achieved during this period and Society is in sound financial position. During this financial year (2014-15) an additional amount of Rs. 2.5 Lakhs (Rs. Two Lakhs Fifty thousand) has been fixed as Term Deposit. He also informed that in last four years, the Society has additional increased in its financial position of Rs. 30.00 Lakhs.

Chief Editor's Report (2014)

The report was presented by the Secretary on behalf of Chief Editor, IPS. During 2014-15, total 202 papers were received through on-line submissions. Out of these, 56 were rejected, 78 published, 38 are in review, 12 have been accepted for next issue and 18 have been sent back to authors for revision. This shows approximately 27% articles rejection rate.

Composition of Executive Council (2015)

As per the election result declared the new elected Executive Council are as follows:

Position	Candidate Name	Elected/ Nominated
President Elect	P. Chowdappa, CPCRI, Kasaragod	Elected
Zonal President (WZ)	D.G. Hingole, Jalna	Elected
Zonal Councillor (WZ)	Kshama A. Anubhule, Jalna	Elected
Zonal President (DZ)	V. Celia Chalam, NBPGR, New Delhi	Elected
Zonal Councillor (DZ)	Jameel Akhtar, NBPGR, New Delhi	Elected
Zonal President (SZ)	M.K. Naik, UAS, Raichur	Elected
Zonal Councillor (SZ)	G. Sunkad, UAS, Raichur	Elected
Zonal President (NZ)	H.R. Gautam, YSPUHF, Solan	Elected
Zonal Councillor (NZ)	Dharmesh Gupta, YSPUHF, Solan	Elected
Zonal President (CZ)	B.S. Rathore, ARS, Mandor	Nominated
Zonal Councillor (CZ)	Shankar Lal Yadav, ARS, Mandor	Nominated
Zonal President (NEZ)	S.V. Ngachan, ICAR Res. Complex, Umiam, Meghalaya	Nominated
Zonal Councillor (NEZ)	Pankaj Baiswas, ICAR Res. Complex, Umiam, Meghalaya	Nominated

Zonal Chapter activities

Seven Zonal Chapters of the Society have actively organized symposia on different themes at their respective Zonal Meetings on important aspects of Plant Pathology.

Southern Zone	Dec. 11-12, 2014	Plant Diseases – Perspectives and Innovative Management Strategies
Delhi Zone	Jan. 17, 2015	Innovative approaches of plant disease management for sustainable development
Western Zone	Jan. 24-25, 2015	Plant Pathology – Disease diagnosis and management for sustainable Agriculture
Eastern Zone	Jan. 29-30, 2015	Advances in Phytopathological Research in Globalized Era with Reference to Eastern Region

North Eastern Zone	Feb. 10-11, 2015	Holistic plant health management in organic agriculture
Mid-eastern Zone	Feb. 28 - Mar 01, 2015	Recent Advances in Diagnosis and Management of Diseases of Field and Horticultural Crops
Central Zone	March 10, 2015	Innovative Management Strategies to Mitigate Diseases of Agricultural and Horticultural crops

Report and Recommendations of 67th Annual Meeting and National Symposium at IISR Calicut

The 67th Annual meeting of Indian Phytopathological Society, New Delhi and National Symposium on “Understanding Host-Pathogen Interaction through Science of Omics” was held at ICAR - Indian Institute of Spices Research (IISR), Kozhikode during 16-17 March, 2015. The event was inaugurated by renowned plant pathologist, Dr. Y R Sarma, FAO Consultant and former Director of IISR, Calicut.

In his inaugural address, Dr. Sarma stressed the need to have a better understanding of the complex interaction between the pathogen, its host and the environment for developing effective plant disease management strategies. Integrating such knowledge from diverse disciplines is the key for integrated disease management in complex agricultural production systems.

Pointing out several cases of spread of diseases within the country through planting material movement, Dr Sarma also stressed the need for implementing an effective internal quarantine system. A strong domestic quarantine can prevent the movement and spread of plant pathogens across geographical regions within the country. He also pointed out the need to develop bio-control agents with multi mode action to make them a viable and economically attractive choice for the farming community for plant disease management.

Dr M. Anandaraj, Director, IISR, and President of the Indian Phytopathological Society presided over the inaugural function. In his presidential address, Dr. Anandaraj said that the plant pathology researchers should strive to harness the advancements in the science of genomics, proteomics, transcriptomics etc. to address the immediate concerns of the farming community. He stressed that an enhanced understanding of molecular events involved in plant disease development opens up the possibility of evolving new methods for tackling persistent plant diseases.

Dr S. Devasahayam, Head Division of Crop Protection, Dr Pratibha Sharma, Secretary, Indian Phytopathological Society and Dr A. I. Bhat, organizing secretary also spoke on the occasion.

The symposium consisted of three technical sessions on aspects like epidemiology, diagnostics, host-pathogen interaction and integrated disease management. A special Industry-Researchers interface session was held to bring about better convergence of research priorities and

requirements among the research institutions and industry stakeholders. Apart from this, different memorial award lectures, invited lead lectures and several posters in frontier areas of plant pathology were also presented during the different sessions. About 200 delegates from different universities and institutes from different parts of the country participated in the event.

The symposium recommended the need for strict enforcement of bio-security and domestic quarantine in plant material movement. The forum also felt the need for certification of nurseries engaged in planting material production. It was also decided to convey the need to delineate bio-control from the purview of Central Insecticide Board as a chemical pesticide. Creation of a national database of plant pathogens, more extensive technology demonstration and skill enhancement for plant protection scientists shall be given priority in the activities of the society in the coming years.

Recommendations:

Policy

1. Biosecurity and domestic quarantine need to be strictly enforced while importing the planting material and their movement within the country.
2. Interaction with the industry should be encouraged and promoted to reap the power of 'omics'
3. Plant pathogens from India (viruses, bacteria, fungi, oomycetes and nematodes) may be compiled and ranked as done internationally
4. Quality of planting materials of horticultural crops needs to be ensured through the certification of nurseries.
5. Quality of bio inoculants produced in the country has to be strictly monitored. Presently, bio control agents are under the purview of Central Insecticide Board as chemical pesticides. This needs to be amended and separate guidelines for bio-agents need to be developed.
6. Skill of plant protection scientists and extension workers need to be developed to empower the actual stake holders.

Research

7. Hidden defense pathways in disease resistance may be identified through proteomics and metabolomics.
8. The feasibility of designer fungicides targeting effector molecules may be explored.
9. A national database accessible to all researchers may be created for disease surveillance, linking the existing institutes

Extension

10. Newly developed plant protection technologies should be demonstrated extensively for better adoption by the farming community.

National /International Conference (2015-16)

The Secretary informed that the Society will organize a brain storming session on Trichoderma and Gliocladium to review it's status in India and subsequently an international workshop on the same will be conducted along with the International Conference of the Society in October 2016. The Society has already applied for seeking permission to hold the international conference with the required documents.

The following decision were taken and approved by the General body.

- i. **Appreciation certificate for Reviewers:** It was decided to give Appreciation Certificate to sincere reviewers by the Chief Editor.
- ii. **Travel Allowance (TA) to Executive Council (EC):** It was decided that EC is entitled for avail the Shatabdi/Rajdhani Second AC or cheapest air fare to attend the meeting of the Society.
- iii. **Open nomination for awards:** General Body agreed for open nomination from members for the awards of the Society with as processing fee of Rs. 500.00. The application must be proposed and seconded by two independent Fellows of the Society. The detailed guidelines will be will be made shortly and will available on IPS website.
- iv. **Advisory Board and Honorary Fellows:** General Body agreed on addition of the following names for :

Honorary Fellow : Dr. Anupam Varma, Dr. C.D. Mayee, Dr. A.N. Mukhopadhyay

Advisory Board : Dr. S. Nagarajan, Dr. Y.R. Sarma and Dr. C. Manoharachary

The Secretary thanked and expressed sincere gratitude to Dr. M. Anandaraj, President for their guidance, advice, encouragement and support in day to day functioning of the Society. The Secretary also thanked profusely Dr. A.K. Misra, President Elect and Dr. A.I. Bhat, Organizing Secretary; Chairman and rapporteurs of various technical sessions and members of organizing sub committees for their wholehearted support in making the 67th National Symposium a grand success. My thanks are also due to all the staff members and students for rendering their valuable help in various ways for making the symposium success. It is my prime duty to thank all the members of Executive Council for their cooperation, active support and suggestions in various activities of the Society. Last but not least, I am thankful to the staff of the Headquarter of IPS for their valuable support.



Pratibha Sharma

(Secretary)

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