



ISPP

International Society for Plant Pathology

(Professor Lodovica Gullino, President)

Insert
your
Society
Logo in
place of
this box

Report to ISPP from an Associated Society for 2008-2013.

Southern African Society for Plant Pathology (SASPP), established March 1962

Web address for Society. (add web address of Society)

www.saspp.co.za

Name (s) of personnel preparing report.. List name and position in the Society
Teresa Coutinho, President of the Society (2011-2015)

Nominated Officers. Is the list for your society on the ISPP website correct?

(<http://www.isppweb.org/societies.asp>) No (*strike out whichever is not applicable)

(If Yes there is no need to list them here. If listing is not correct, please list here President, Secretary, Treasurer, Business Manager/Office and ISPP councillors (address, telephone and email contacts).

President: Prof TA Coutinho (FABI, University of Pretoria, Pretoria 0002, South Africa; 012-4203934, teresa.coutinho@up.ac.za), vice-president: Prof J Roux (FABI, University of Pretoria, Pretoria 0002, South Africa, 012-4205820, jolanda.roux@up.ac.za), secretary – Ms W Kriel, Starke Ayres (Pty) Ltd, P.O. Box 14366, Bredell, 1623, South Africa, 011 748 3643, wilmarie@starkeayres.co.za)
Treasurer: Dr S van Heerden, SAKATA VEGETICS RSA (PTY) LTD, P O Box 160, Lanseria 1748, South Africa, +27 11 548 2800, schalk.vanheerden@sakata.eu.

ISPP councillors: Prof MJ Wingfield (FABI, University of Pretoria, Pretoria 0002, South Africa, 012-4203938, mike.wingfield@fabi.up.ac.za), and Prof Z Pretorius, Dept of Plant Pathology, University of the Free State, Bloemfontein 9300, South Africa, PretorZA@ufs.ac.za)

Will a Society member be making corrections to the ISPP entry for your society on-line? No.

Society Contact: (Insert Name) Email: Teresa.coutinho@up.ac.za

Society membership.232 members in 2011; 271 members in 2012.

Report for 2008-2013. (add text here using the headings as a guide...) (half a page)

- *Society Activities and publications.* A brief background, and information about the aims and achievements of the Society or indicate that the information is on the society website.

In March 1962, the Society was combined with Microbiology, which formed their own society in 1981. The role of the society is embedded in its constitution and its aims are:

- Acting as the official mouthpiece of plant pathologists in Southern Africa;
 - Providing opportunities for plant pathologists to meet and exchange information of mutual scientific interest;
 - Coordinating affiliation with related scientific societies in Southern Africa, as well as with corresponding and related foreign societies;
 - Gathering and disseminating information on Plant Pathology.
- The Society publishes biannual newsletters. Abstracts from conferences are published on our website.....
 - *Society Conferences and Workshops.* Congresses are held every two years. The last conference was held in Bela Bela, Limpopo, in January 2013. In alternate years, regional branches hold 1 day symposia focusing on issues relevant to that specific branch.
 - *Other plant pathology conferences in Region.*

Include the annual symposium on Soilborne Plant Diseases Interest Group of South Africa as well as the biennial conference of the Plant Breeders Society.

- *Plant Pathology in Region.* A brief update about overarching issues affecting plant pathology in region served by the Society)
Overall the plant pathology community plays an important role in the agricultural and forestry sections in South Africa. Efforts have and are currently being made to include other countries we serve in our activities, i.e. Namibia, Botswana, Lesotho, Swaziland, Zimbabwe and Mozambique.
- *Funding opportunities*
Funding for research is mainly from direct interactions with industry as well as funding from the National Science Foundation.

Plant pathology in the Region Served by the Society 2008-2013

(1 to 3 pages - A Summary highlighting issues of focus and achievements in plant pathology in the region during 2008-2013 and looking ahead to 2018)

During this period SASPP has hosted three congresses, in Gordon's Bay, Cape Province in 2009, Kruger National Park, Mpumalanga in 2011 and in Bela Bela, Limpopo, 2013. These congresses were attended by between 120 to over 200 delegates.

The new council was appointed in 2011 and began their term by hosting a planning meeting with the idea of placing the Society on the very best possible trajectory to ensure growth and stability into the future. The fact that we will celebrate the 50th Anniversary of the SASPP in 2018 also provided an ideal point in time to plot the future of the Society. Past presidents of the Society, Heads of Departments of Plant Pathology, branch chairpersons, student representatives from each university and representatives of key areas of importance to the future of Plant Pathology in South Africa were invited to attend the meeting. A range of topics were discussed which included the website, implementing a biannual newsletter and, very importantly, making intensive efforts to involve industries closely linked with plant pathology in the society's activities.

Another challenge the council has set themselves is to increase student membership of the Society. To increase the attractiveness of joining the Society, we have contacted the American Phytopathology Society (APS), British Plant Pathology Society (BPPS) and the Australasian Plant Pathology Society (APPS) in an attempt to offer joint membership to one or more society at a reduced rate. Feedback thus far has come from APS and BSPP. Although BSPP could not offer reduced membership fees they were very positive and made some alternative suggestions. These included free registration at their annual meeting and a fellowship for 3 months to research groups in the UK. APS reduced their membership to student members of SASPP and would like to see a closer association between the Societies.

The Society has bestowed fellowships to Profs. Pedro Crous (CBS) and Lise Korsten (University of Pretoria) as well as the JE van der Planck award to Prof Bernard Slippers (University of Pretoria).

Outputs

Papers published by the community are showing an upward trend. The website and the biannual newsletters are currently our main forms of communication and members regularly contribute scientific or technical articles.

Challenges

To strengthen our relationships with industries that support our research as well as getting active participation in the society's activities from other countries in the region.

Looking forward

Our main activity is hosting biennial congresses and the regional branch symposia. We have debated hosting a large international conference but due to our small size we do not see this happening in the foreseeable future. We would like to see all our members belonging to international societies and wherever possible represent SASPP at these events.