

INTERNATIONAL NEWSLETTER ON PLANT PATHOLOGY

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News and announcements from all on any aspect of Plant Pathology are invited for the Newsletter. Contributions from the ISPP Executive, Council and Subject Matter Committees, Associated Societies and Supporting Organisations are requested.

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Phytopathologia Mediterranea special issue on Grapevine Trunk Diseases

The current issue of *Phytopathologia Mediterranea* contains research papers and reviews as part of the 9th special issue on Grapevine Trunk Diseases. Additionally, all abstracts of oral and poster presentations given at the first COST Action FA 1303 workshop on "Sustainable control of Grapevine Trunk Diseases: current state and future prospects" held in Cognac, France, during 23-24 June 2015 are also contained in this issue.

Browse [Phytopathologia Mediterranea](#) special issue.

Veg Pest ID App

[Applied Horticultural Research](#) have released a new app called "Veg Pest ID" which can be used to identify pests and diseases on vegetable crops in Australia. Its access is currently restricted to Australia, but it may also be useful in other countries when available. It can be downloaded in the Philippines and Vietnam also. The APP covers over 1,500 pests and the crops covered in this version include:

- Baby leaf crops (e.g. Spinach, Lettuce, Rocket, Mizuna)
- Brassicas (e.g. Broccoli, Cabbage, Cauliflower, Brussels sprouts)
- Carrots, Celery, Parsley
- Sweet corn
- Sweet potato

The app can be used on iPhone, iPad, Android phones and tablets. To download the app, search Veg Pest ID online in the Apple Store for Apple or the Play Store for Android devices. [More details](#).

Scott Isard Receives Prestigious Award

The USDA AFRI Food Security Challenge Area recently awarded the Integrated Pest Information Platform for Extension and Education (iPiPE) Cooperative Agricultural Project grant to Scott Isard. This five-year, \$7 million Cooperative Agricultural Project (CAP) is aimed at promoting a new culture of sharing pest observation data. Its mission is to:

- Contribute to our nation's infrastructure for food security;
- Build local and regional capacity to respond to food security problems involving crop pests;
- Reduce adverse environmental effects from pest management practices;
- Enhance farm profitability.



The iPiPE is comprised of diverse Crop-Pest Programs that incentivise growers and consultants to submit observations on target and endemic pests by providing tools and information that will support their timely management decision-making. Coordinated by extension professionals from across the nation, programs address a variety of crops and pests and provide undergraduate students with hands-on extension and diagnostic experiences. Risk-based research will prioritise detection efforts for target pests and direct in-field scouting for endemic pests. Observations housed in a national pest observation depository will enable future research to build on geographically extensive, multi-year databases.

(Penn State, September 2015)

Student reports on International Plant Protection Congress, 24-27 August 2015

At the recent International Plant Protection Congress conference held in Berlin, students from several universities in Germany reported on the highlights of the meeting through the ICPP [Student Reporters 2015](#) blog. As part of the IPPC 2015 meeting, the German Phytomedical Society (DPG) Junior Scientists were invited to a World Café round table discussion with three different topics. These are also covered in the blog.

Understanding phytobiomes to improve agricultural productivity

Phytobiome-plant interaction sessions were held during the recent APS meeting in California, USA, and a link was provided in the [September issue](#) of the ISPP Newsletter. YouTube videos are also available of the special session "Understanding Phytobiomes to Improve Agricultural Productivity" at the APS-CPS Joint Meeting in Minneapolis, USA, in August 2014. This special session featured five experts who illustrated why funding investments in phytobiome approaches are critical by highlighting what we have not been able to learn with individual organisms and revealing what can be learned when microbiomes are studied as a system.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=vFKk20PCf6E>

GM technology essential to producing enough wheat for 9 billion people

Dr Sanjaya Rajaram, the winner of the World Food Prize 2014, says genetic modification technology is needed to feed the world into the future. As a wheat scientist in India and Mexico, he has bred 480 wheat varieties so far. He said global wheat production has to increase from 700 million metric tonnes, to one billion tonnes, to feed the world's population by 2050 and conventional or hybrid breeding will not be enough.

"I think the world community, including the governments, scientific centres and the scientists, farmers, have got to prepare for how to meet that target." The US is now allowing trials of GM wheat. He said the genes would have to be carefully selected. "But it's one of the technologies if we're going to meet the 1,000 million metric tonnes."

(ABC Rural, 18 September 2015)

Dr. Deena Errampalli, President of Plant Canada (2015-2019)

Immediate past president of the Canadian Phytopathological Society, Dr. Deena Errampalli has been elected President of Plant Canada for a 4-year term, 2015-19. Plant Canada, Federation of Canadian Plant Science Societies (<http://www.plantcanada.ca/>) is an umbrella organization for six Canadian plant scientific societies - Canadian Society of Agronomy (CSA), Canadian Botanical Association (CBA), Canadian Phytopathological Society (CPS), Canadian Society for Horticultural Science (CSHS), Canadian Society of Plant Biologists (CSPB), and Canadian Weed Science Society (CWSS).

(Greg Johnson)



Africa Plant Biosecurity Network underway

15 Senior Biosecurity Fellows and 30 Associate Fellows - biosecurity champions for African plant pest and disease protection - met in Nairobi on 18 August 2015 for the first Africa Plant Biosecurity Network meeting. Bill Magee represented The Plant Biosecurity Cooperative Research Centre (PBCRC) and gave a presentation at the meeting, with PBCRC CEO Michael Robinson providing an opening address via video.

An initiative of the Australia-Africa Plant Biosecurity Partnership, the Fellows will be trained in a range of plant protection areas to improve plant biosecurity in ten east and southern African countries, including matched training in Australia and development of communication skills. The aim is to assist African individuals to improve regional biosecurity, farmer incomes, food security and safe regional trade of agricultural products. The East and Southern African countries included are Burundi, Ethiopia, Kenya, Malawi, Mozambique, Rwanda, Tanzania, Uganda, Zambia and Zimbabwe.

As well as providing placements in Australian plant industries and biosecurity agencies, the Network will bring African biosecurity professionals together to share information, provide ongoing development mentoring, and support Fellows to manage training and outreach in their own countries, improving biosecurity systems, policies and resources. Senior Fellows will spend six weeks in Australia later in the year. This will include an overview of Australia's biosecurity system, a three-week technical placement with a host plant biosecurity institution, training in soft skills and a field trip to see plant biosecurity practices in action.

(The Leaflet, Plant Biosecurity CRC, September 2015)

USDA grants \$3 million to address food security and hunger

The U.S. Department of Agriculture's (USDA) National Institute of Food and Agriculture (NIFA) announced \$3 million in grants designed to mitigate crop losses by arthropods and diseases. The awards to support research, education, and extension efforts were made through NIFA's Agriculture and Food Research Initiative (AFRI), which is authorised by the 2014 Farm Bill. "This will enable the U.S. agriculture industry to mitigate critical challenges in areas such as food security, sustainability, bioenergy, climate change, and an increasing global competition," said Sonny Ramaswamy, NIFA director.

NIFA made the awards through the AFRI Food Security challenge area, which seeks to increase sustainable food production. Priority was given to projects that will improve prevention, early detection, rapid diagnosis, or recovery from new, foreign, or emerging plant diseases, arthropods, or nematodes that have the potential to cause major impacts on food security. NIFA made additional awards in April 2015 through the AFRI Food Security challenge area that focuses on minimizing livestock losses to pests. [Read more.](#)

(USDA Press Release, 10 September 2015)

Shaping the Future of Food Safety, Together, 14-16 October 2015

European Food Safety Authority announced that the scientific conference "Shaping the Future of Food Safety, Together" which takes place on 14-16 October 2015 in Milan, Italy, can be accessed via [live web streaming](#). Interested participants will also have the opportunity to take part in the Question and Answer sessions by submitting their questions and comments through Twitter or a dedicated form on the conference's website while watching the conference.

In conjunction with EFSA's conference a series of other events will be organised by partner institutions including:

- 'Globalized Trade as a Driver of Emerging Risks in Food Safety' organised by Istituto Zooprofilattico Sperimentale of the Lombardia and Emilia-Romagna region and taking place on 14 October 2015 morning in the same venue than EFSA's scientific conference. For more information: http://www.izsler.it/izs_home_page/archivio_news/00003779_Globalized_Trade_as_a_Driver_of_Emerging_Risks_in_Food_Safety.html

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