



ISPP

International Society for Plant Pathology

(Dr Greg Johnson, President)



Report to ISPP from an Associated Society for 2013-2018.

Name of Society. Deutsche Phytomedizinische Gesellschaft e.V. (German Society for Plant Protection and Plant Health r.S.)

Established: 12.10.1928

Web address for Society. www.phytomedizin.org; www.plant-protection.net

Name (s) of personnel preparing report. Dr. Falko Feldmann, Managing Director

Nominated Officers. Is the list for your society on the ISPP website correct? No

President Prof. Dr. Johannes Hallmann (Julius Kühn-Institut, Münster, Germany, Johannes.Hallmann@julius-kuehn.de)

Managing Director Dr. Falko Feldmann (DPG, Braunschweig, Germany Feldmann@phytomedizin.org).

Will a Society member be making corrections to the ISPP entry for your society on-line? No (no adaption of ISPP function expressions possible)

Society Contact: Dr. Falko Feldmann; **Email** Feldmann@phytomedizin.org

Society membership. 1346 members in 2013; 1398 members in 2014; 1405 members in 2015; 1435 members in 2016, 1458 members in 2017; the part of Phytopathologists is with 20% stable since years.

Report for 2013-2018.

Society Activities and publications.

The German Society for Plant Protection and Plant Health r. S. (DPG) is the largest scientific association in plant protection and production in Germany. The Society is membership-based, and its members are professionals within the entire field of phytomedicine. Here, we define phytomedicine as the science of plant disorders (whether biotic or abiotic), their diagnosis, management and control. Phytomedicine deals with all infectious agents that attack plants, and also covers damage caused to crops by pests, diseases and weeds. Under our definition, we additionally include abiotic disorders such as drought, frost, flooding, poor drainage, nutrient deficiency, salt deposition and other soluble mineral excesses or wind, which may occur naturally or be man-made. Other examples of man-made 'problems' include soil compaction, pollution of air and soil, salt applications on roads in urban areas, overuse of pesticides, as well as poor education and poor training of people working with plants.

The special fields of interest (competences) of the 1,450 individual DPG members clearly reflect the broad scientific range of disciplines and topics encompassed by phytomedicine. In essence, the activities of DPG members are centred around some 20 or so basic disciplines (e.g. phytopathology, mycology, virology, bacteriology, nematology and entomology). In a multidisciplinary sense, 10 core disciplines emerge, covering important areas such as disease monitoring, diagnosis, plant protection strategies and soil management. The extent of expertise within the DPG membership varies from discipline to discipline, but all areas of phytomedicine are covered. Within the membership, there is a balance between system-oriented, applied approaches to phytomedicine and basic research which may or may not have direct or indirect application. The former constitute mainly members from applied research and advisory institutions or organisations, who seek to provide or support solutions to plant protection problems, ideally in direct collaboration with advisors (practitioners), growers and agricultural companies. The latter include academic scientists in federal or university research

institutes, whose links to DPG depend largely on their individual interests in plant protection issues. Thus, DPG comprises a community of experts professionally committed to the achievement and preservation of both the 'healthy plant' and 'healthy plant production'.

DPG is a scientific association with the purpose of promoting research in the entire field of phytomedicine and the application of the results gained thereby, primarily to advance education within plant health and to support extension services. The Society pursues its goals through:

- a) organising or supporting scientific meetings and conferences;
- b) the joint organisation of national and international congresses, symposia etc. (e.g. the *German Plant Protection Congress* in co-operation with the Federal Research Centre for Cultivated Plants and the German Plant Protection Services; the International Symposium *Plant Protection and Plant Health in Europe* in co-operation with changing partners, or the Urban Plant Conferences in co-operation with universities, plant protection services and non-governmental organisations);
- c) offering scientists opportunities to join the 24 working groups;
- d) establishment and development of relationships not only with other organisations that have similar aims and objectives but also with professional colleagues abroad;
- e) co-operation with universities and other training establishments, with the aim of providing advice in the establishment of study plans and education curricula;
- f) promotion of young scientists;
- g) provision of information to the general public on the aims and objectives of phytomedicine;
- h) publication of research results from the entire area of phytomedicine and the promotion of such publications (e.g. *Journal of Plant Diseases and Protection*, the DPG in-house journal *Phytomedizin*, specific proceedings of conferences and symposia as well as monographs in the annual publication *Phytomedicine Spectrum*);
- i) awarding of prizes and medals;
- j) promotion of the career, legal and social interests of its members, in collaboration with other (mainly national) organisations.

Funding opportunities are available only for members of the Society

Plant pathology in the Region Served by the Society 2013-2018

Many professions deal with phytomedical practices, especially plant protection: e.g. farmers, gardeners, forest proprietors or even private persons who observe that plant disease and pathogens impair the quality of the culture plant or that plant protection guarantees the high yield or quality of useful plants (including food crops and ornamentals). The large number of professions concerned with phytomedicine (such as those mentioned above) completes the spectrum.

In its 90 years' history, DPG has attracted a large number of people from a very wide range of professions. Virtually none of these professions operates in isolation; indeed, most work closely together with others. Consequently, it is easy to identify a large number of interactions between them, resulting in mainly four 'fields of action' at an interdisciplinary level: consumer protection and product quality, work safety and environmental protection.

These four action fields are directly correlated with phytomedical practices before, during or after plant production. If these or the core competences are, for example, communicated to the public or the media, a trans-disciplinary level is reached. The interrelationships between phytomedicine and important societal demands (e.g. those belonging to landscape, communication and consultation) are located at that level.

It is the outstanding importance of social requirements which introduces new definitions of 'quality'. For example, over and above product quality, today's consumer is more and more asking how a product has been produced. He or she will no longer accept poor social standards (such as child labour), but is willing to pay a higher price for fairly produced goods. The inclusion of such social standards at the trans-disciplinary level, for example, creates the action field of 'production quality'. Phytomedicine must become aware of new action fields as they develop and itself become proactive under changing social demands.

Important motors of change were the onset of globalisation of trade, the creation of international networks on every scale and the huge possibilities arising for those who were prepared for interactions

and relationships with other parties. DPG started to integrate with several national and international networks more than 25 years ago. However, it initially remained a mainly nationally oriented scientific society. In spite of this, DPG members (especially the researchers) intensified their co-operation with colleagues outside Germany and thereby turned DPG into a more internationally orientated organisation. The activities of the various DPG Working Groups bear particular testament to this.

DPG is permanently reorganising internally, to support communication with colleagues abroad. For example: the *Journal of Plant Disease and Protection* (cost-free for DPG members since 2006) is owned by DPG and will increasingly allow members to publish their findings, reviews and short communications explicitly for the readership worldwide interested in phytomedicine; conversely, international scientists will be able to communicate directly with DPG members by publishing their results in the same journal. During 2018, the DPG website will be given a new face, including a new domain name (www.plant-protection.net in addition to www.phytomedizin.org). Furthermore, the DPG Working Groups emphasise the international flavour of their meetings and some co-operate internationally with colleagues from other, especially European, countries; also, the presentations at the largest German congress dealing with phytomedicine (the *Deutsche Pflanzenschutztagung*) is published on a new website (www.pflanzenschutztagung.de) and will inform the international audience about German activities in plant protection.

Important actions during the reporting period have been the organisation 39 national and international symposia and congresses including the biannual symposium under the umbrella title of *Plant Protection and Plant Health in Europe, the triannual Reinhardsbrunn-Symposium on Modern Fungicides, The annual Urban Plant Conferences, The national Weed Science Congress* and so on. Additionally congresses of partners are supported like the international Tropentag, the MiCrope congress and others. Recently a new series has been established under the umbrella name *Insect Conferences*.

Finally, DPG established a Committee for International Co-operation connected to the Berlin-Symposium as Advisory Committee which co-ordinates all relevant interactions of DPG with foreign associations with similar interests. In addition to the membership in the ISPP DPG is member in the International Association of Plant Protection Sciences (IAPPS), the European Plant Science Organisation (EPSO), the Council for Tropical and Subtropical Agricultural Research (ATSAF), the national committee of the International Union of Biological Sciences (IUBS) and the national Dachverband für Agrarforschung.

With its wide membership, DPG includes a huge reservoir of scientific potential, not only for the benefit of the Society and its members but also for the public in general. As the oldest and largest lobby for phytomedicine in Germany, DPG is able to support and mould the development of phytomedicine on an inter- and a trans-disciplinary level, within scientific circles and in the public arena. As a partner, DPG can offer like-minded organisations a long-term partnership to further all aspects of phytomedicine, whether academic or applied. To this end, we would welcome contacts from all organisations that are seeking to establish such collaborative ventures in phytomedicine, as well as from individuals who wish to become DPG members.