

## **Forward to the Second Edition of the World Directory of Plant Pathologists (Fisher, 1980)**

*This Forward, written by Fran Fisher in the pre-internet and per email age in 1980, captures the rationale and the spirit of the establishment of the Directory and mostly this rationale remains valid today.*

This Directory has been compiled with the sincere hope that it would help to improve personal and professional connections as well as communication among fellow plant pathologists throughout the world.

The War on Hunger has always been understood and waged as an unceasing battle by those in the profession. Now, others are beginning to realise the vital significance of increasing agricultural productivity, not only to feed our growing population, but also to permit the general economic development that depends on a strong, productive agricultural base. Even in the modern world of technological achievement, the fact remains that mankind is, directly or indirectly, dependent on plants.

In most agricultural areas, one of the most profitable methods to increase agricultural production is by reducing the incidence of disease. This is not often obvious to the farmer who is using the resistant varieties already developed or to the administrator thinking all the necessary tools are available. But the battle is continuous, and the pathologist must be prepared for the new pathogen that will attack the resistant plants, the changed cultural practices that might enhance disease development, the modern problem of air and water pollution effects on plants, and other problems that may come in the future.

Professional communication is a real necessity. This need is partly filled by personal contacts. Meetings sponsored by professional societies provide new information as well as the stimulation of exchanging ideas. We become acquainted with each other across vast areas through publications. There are times a person may want to contact someone in a specific area but does not know who is in the area, or he may want to contact an individual but does not have the address. The purpose of this directory is to fill that gap in our communications. In addition, it provides information on the number of pathologists, where they are, and, in most instances, what their work is.

Of the estimated 15,000 pathologists in the world, there are almost 12,000 in 131 countries (or areas) listed here. In countries where there are organized societies, their lists were used as the bases for compilation. Some of the lists included workers in other fields such as entomology, horticulture, etc. Their names were usually deleted either by the society or the editor. A number of persons working in other countries requested listings in both their home country and the country in which they are temporarily working. In countries or areas where no society exists, information was supplied by individuals living in those countries. Supplemental information was obtained from the United Nations Food and Agriculture Organization and the International Union of Forest Research Organizations.

The directory is organized geographically and alphabetically, first by continent, then by country or area. Islands have been placed with the nearest continent. Continents are as delineated in The Hammond World Atlas, Hammond, Inc., New York. This method of continental division is used because nature recognizes no man-made boundaries.

The examples of disease movement across continents are well known to pathologists, and for this reason it seemed logical to place the pathologists together who might have to combat a common epidemic.

The national societies and the pathologists are listed together under their country or area for convenience. The fact that the pathologists' names follow that of their societies does not necessarily mean that they are members of that particular society. Some societies graciously provided names of as many trained pathologists as were known in the country whether or not they were actually members. In other instances, pathologists were included who were known, but not listed by a particular society. The cooperation and enthusiasm shown by all who helped to make this compilation demonstrated the wonderful loyalty that exists between pathologists and to their profession. It is my hope that this loyalty will be further strengthened by improved communications.

For some years I have maintained my own file of pathologists in citrus growing areas. However, the concept for a general directory was begun following the First International Congress for Plant Pathology in London, 1968. Later the American Phytopathological Society's International Cooperation Committee supported the compilation and also the International Society of Plant Pathology offered cooperation. Finally, the effort of compilation grew from a part time project to an almost overwhelming work load, but it became a reality with the generous support of my own research center and the University of California/Agency for International Development Project csd 3296.

The enthusiasm expressed by so many colleagues following the first edition as well as the need for additions, deletions, and other changes necessitated since 1973 have resulted in this revision. Current listings for some areas are not available because of various political conditions, and a few supplied limited or selected listings. As with the first edition, editing of the compilation was minimal. Since pathologists are assured to have fundamental training in general pathology, these two words were deleted in most instances, but all specialities given were included.

Generally the specialty information requested was supplied; however some listings gave no specialties, some submitted more than requested, and listed current one specific projects rather than areas of expertise.

Unfortunately, we did not have the necessary type to set all of the proper characters and accent marks for the various languages, but we earnestly hope everyone will understand. Since it was not possible to return proof to each for corrections, inadvertent errors probably have been made. For these we ask both your indulgence and your corrections! Hopefully, In the future, it will be possible to make the desired improvements and incorporate necessary corrections

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