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3RD ALL-RUSSIAN CONGRESS OF PLANT PROTECTION

The 3rd All- Russian Congress of Plant Protection was held on December 16-20, 2013, in Saint-Petersburg (Russia). It was attended by more than 400 scientists and specialists from Research Institutes, Universities, Ministry of Agriculture, state and private companies and other organizations.

Researchers from Belgium, Hungary, Belorussia, Kazakhstan, Moldova and Ukraine participated in the Congress. Within the plenary session 12 lectures on general topics of plant protection were presented. A total 245 oral and 35 poster presentations were made in 13 sessions:

1. Legal, economic and personnel problems in plant protection
2. Monitoring and forecasting
3. Phytopathology and Mycology
4. Entomology
5. Weeds
6. Quarantine diseases and pests
7. Plant resistance to diseases
8. Biological control
9. Chemical control
10. Mechanization of technological processes in plant protection
11. Biotechnology in plant protection
12. Systems of the integrated of plant protection
13. Pest resistance to pesticides.

The Congress Proceedings included 354 abstracts on different problems of plant protection. At the plenary session the academician V.I. Dolzhenko, head of Department of Plant Protection and Biotechnology of Russian Academy of Agricultural Sciences, made an analysis of the geopolitical and economic factors influencing phytosanitary safety in Russia. He noted that, in order to prevent the appearance of new plant pathogens and pests, it is now is necessary to increase the level of the Federal phytosanitary and quarantine control, especially of the movement and use of products of quarantine risk, both of imports and of domestic origin.

The Director of the All-Russian Research Institute for Plant Protection, academician V. A. Pavlushin (addressing the Congress participants in the below picture), presenting a report on "Phytosanitary optimization of agroecosystems," formulated a new concept of plant protection which is based on biocenotic approach to integrated plant protection from diseases and pests.

An analysis of the major, current plant protection problems was presented at the Congress. These included the monitoring and forecasting of diseases and pests, appearance of new pathogens, agricultural entomology and mycology, phytopathology, chemical and biological protection of plants, biotechnologies, plant resistance to pathogens (including genomic studies of plants and pathogens) and mechanization of plant protection tactics.

In the resolution of Congress it was noted that in Russia, and other countries, there is an increase in the importance and number of phytosanitary risks owing to the globalization of agricultural production and climate change.

For the prevention of outbreaks of extremely harmful pests (locust, Colorado potato beetle and other invasive species) and dangerous races of diseases, such as Ug99 of wheat stem rust, the Congress recommends it will be expedient to establish a mechanism of international monitoring by joint efforts of researchers from Russia and adjacent countries, such as China, Kazakhstan, Ukraine and Belarus.

Prof. O. Afanasenko
IAPPS Coordinator Region II: Eastern Europe
E-mail: olga.s.afan@gmail.com

INTERNATIONAL WORKSHOP ON BIOLOGICAL CONTROL AND MANAGEMENT OF *PARTHENIUM HYSTEROPHORUS*

A four-day workshop is being organized in Ethiopia July 13-17, 2014, to review the current status of parthenium in the world and discuss management practices that can be used to abate its adverse impacts. The workshop will be held in two phases: Addis Ababa – July 13-15 (venue Nexus Hotel http://www.nexusaddis.com/), and Adama –July 15-17, (venue Kereyu Hill Resort Hotel http://kereyuhillresorthotel.com/), which will also include a field trip (see below).

The workshop will bring together scientists working on parthenium from Africa and other parts of the world to share information on the biology and management of this weed. It is designed to facilitate collaboration among researchers both within Ethiopia and internationally.

The devastating invasive weed parthenium (*Parthenium hysterophorus*) is making an unwelcome advance in countries around the world from its birthplace in Central America. The scourge, known in Oromiffa, one of Ethiopia's languages, as "faramsissa," or "sign your land away," has now spread to Africa, Asia, and Australia. In Africa, its reach extends from Ethiopia in the north to South Africa in the south. Wherever it goes, it reduces crop yield, adversely affects livestock production by taking over pastures and affecting the taste of cow's milk, damages human health, and impinges on biodiversity. The Integrated Pest Management Innovation Lab—a program funded by USAID and managed by Virginia Tech—has a project in Ethiopia led by Virginia State University that has been developing control practices to abate these adverse impacts. This project has evaluated the host range of two bioagents that control the weed, conducted a detailed survey of parthenium in eastern and southern Africa, and trained several individuals on biological control.

Workshop participants will visit a bioagent rearing site, witness the release of bioagents (*Zygogramma*, illustrated on the picture, and *Listronotus*) that control *Parthenium*, and visit farms affected by this weed.

The provisional program, as well as details about registration and logistic arrangement can be found in the brochure which can be downloaded from the following

link:
http://www.oired.vt.edu/ipmcrsp/Publications/Meetings&Workshops/parthenium-workshop-ethiopia-2014-flyer.pdf

Abstracts of no more than 600 words are due by the end of April 2014. Please email them to Wondi Mersie wmersie@vsu.edu or Rangaswamy Muniappan (Muni) at rmuni@vt.edu.

The journal of Crop Protection is interested in bringing out a special issue of the quality articles presented at this workshop. Those who wish their papers published in Crop Protection should submit their manuscript at workshop or within a month thereafter (August 13, 2014). The format for papers will follow that of the Crop Protection Journal.

Prof. R. Muniappan
IAPPS Coordinator Region XI: North America
Director, IPM Innovation Lab
Email: rmuni@vt.edu

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IAPPS Mission: to provide a global forum for the purpose of identifying, evaluating, integrating, and promoting plant protection concepts, technologies, and policies that are economically, environmentally, and socially acceptable.

It seeks to provide a global umbrella for the plant protection sciences to facilitate and promote the application of the Integrated Pest Management (IPM) approach to the world's crop and forest ecosystems.

Membership Information: IAPPS has four classes of membership (individual, affiliate, associate, and corporate) which are described in the IAPPS Web Site www.plantprotection.org.

The *IAPPS Newsletter* welcomes news, letters, and other items of interest from individuals and organizations. Address correspondence and information to:

Manuele Tamò
Editor, IAPPS Newsletter
IITA-Benin
08 B.P. 0932 Tri Postal, Cotonou, Republic of Benin
E-mail: m.tamo@cgiar.org