

ANNUAL REPORT OF THE INDIAN PHYTOPATHOLOGICAL SOCIETY FOR THE YEAR 1977

Mr. President, Members of the Society, Ladies and Gentlemen :

I have great pleasure in presenting to you the 31st Annual report of our Society for the year 1977. During the year 131 new members joined the Society, 33 as life members and 98 as ordinary members (including 60 student members) whereas 39 discontinued their membership. Thus at the end of the year, we have a total of 1002 members and 468 subscribers. It is for the first time that our membership crossed one thousand mark.

The financial position of the Society continues to be satisfactory. The amount to the credit of the Society in Savings Bank accounts with Grindlays Bank Ltd, and Bank of India, New Delhi as also cash in hand on 31st December, 1977 was Rs. 86,306.61. In addition, a sum of Rs. 10,000/- has been invested in 12 years National Defence Certificates due in 1981. A sum of Rs. 40,000/- which was invested as Fixed deposit for 5 years in 1972 had matured. Now a total of Rs. 60,000/- which includes the interest received on this amount has been redeposited as fixed deposit for 5 years. Thus the total assets amount to Rs. 156,306.61. Several cheques are still in the process of collection. During the year, the receipts amount to Rs. 108,611.12 and expenditure Rs. 75,201.03, thus, leaving a balance of Rs. 33,410.08. We have paid the cost of printing of four issues of our Journal—Indian Phytopathology volume 29, 1976. Indian Council of Agriculture Research has given us a financial assistance of Rs. 10,000/- towards the printing of the Journal and we are thankful to the Council for this grant. Printing of the Journal is in the hands of M/s. Kapoor Art Press, New Delhi.

I am happy to inform that 16 members, namely, Drs. Ahmed Jamal, M. P. Srivastava, P. P. Sinha, Khalil Mahmood, Sangam Lal, Ram Asare Singh, Y. Prasad, Ram Autar Singh, D. V. Singh, Shamsher Singh, J. N. Rai, A. K. Roy, R. C. Sharma, V. Dakshinamurti, R. S. Kanaujia and R. S. Dwivedi have been accepted for the Fellowship of the Society (FPSI).

I also wish to report the honours conferred upon several members of the Society at National as well as International level. Prof. C. V. Subramanian, University Botany Laboratory, Madras has been elected President of 3rd International Mycological Congress; Dr. M. S. Swaminathan, Director-General, ICAR was elected foreign fellow of National Academy of Sciences of USA and also as Vice-President of 15th International Congress of Genetics to be held in Moscow later this year. Dr. H. C. Govindu was elected as President of Section of Agricultural Sciences of 65th Session of Indian Science Congress Association; Prof. K. S. Thind was elected Chairman of the Committee for the Development of Asiatic Tropical Mycology at the International Mycological Congress held at Tampa (USA) and Dr. S. P. Raychaudhuri has been elected for five years as Chairman of working party on Mycoplasma diseases of International Union of Forestry Research Organisation. I take this opportunity to lend our own word of felicitations to these members of the Society on behalf of you all.

Editorial Board (1977-79)

According to articles 6 and 7 of the constitution and Bye laws of the Society, the following Editorial Board was elected by the Executive Council for the period 1977-79. Editor-in-chief, Dr. C. L. Sethi, Editor, Dr. J. S. Grewal and ten members of the Editorial Board : Dr. H. K. Saksena, Mr. V. C. Lele (Fungal Pathology); Dr. K. S. Bilgrami, Mr. Ram Nath (Mycology); Drs. K. S. Bhargava, Anupam Varma (Virology); Drs. J. P. Varma, J. N. Chand (Bacteriology); Drs. R. S. Singh, S. K. Saksena (Nematology) and Secretary of the IPS, Dr. M. S. Chatrath as an ex-officio member.

Lectures and other activities

The Society organised a number of lectures by eminent scientists both at the Headquarters and in different zones.

Dr. J. F. Jenkyn, Rothamsted Experimental Station gave a talk on "Biology, effects and control of barley powdery mildew" at Delhi.

Prof. Y. Asada, University of Shime Matsuyama, Japan gave a lecture on "Induction of lignification in response to fungal infection" at Bangalore (Southern Zone).

Dr. K. Ramakrishnan gave a talk on "Cross protection in citrus viruses" at Parbhani (Western Zone).

Mr. Raul A. Robinson, FAO Consultant gave a talk on "The role of horizontal resistance in increasing world food production" and Dr. Hajime Kato of National Institute of Agriculture, Tokyo, Japan spoke on "The development of perfect stage of *Pyricularia oryzae* and its role in the epidemiology of rice blast" at Hyderabad (Central Zone).

I am thankful to Dr. H. R. Reddy, Dr. C. D. Mayee and Dr. K. A. Balasubramanian Councillors, for organising the lectures in their zones.

A symposium on "Current Problems in Plant Pathology" was organised under the auspices of North Zone of the Society at Haryana Agricultural University, Hissar during November, 1977. About 50 delegates attended the meeting. Professor J. N. Chand, Councillor, North Zone deserves our thanks and congratulations for taking the initiative and organising this symposium.

As a part of its future activities, the Society has decided to organise a series of panel discussions on problems of topical importance, to assess the present status and gaps in our knowledge to enable us to plan future activities. For the first panel discussion which is being held on 9th February, 1978 a disease of national importance—Red rot of Sugarcane—has been selected. I wish to thank Dr. D. N. Srivastava, Asstt. Director-General, ICAR for his help and advice for organising this discussion. Two years ago, the Society decided to bring out sets of coloured slides on diseases of important crops as Teaching Aids. In 1975 first series on wheat diseases was brought out. The idea was so much appreciated by scientists and various extension organisations, that all the 75 sets we got prepared during the current year have been sold out. I am happy to inform that second series on maize diseases has also been brought out. I would like to place on record my sincere thanks to Drs. M. M. Payak, A. S. Summanwar and C. L. Sethi for their help in bringing out the 2nd series. We plan

to bring out similar sets of coloured slides on diseases of rice, potato, millets etc. in near future. We received Rs. 8000/- as sale proceeds of these slides.

The Society has brought out a leaflet giving brief biographical sketches of Dr. B. B. Mundkur and Prof. M. J. Narasimhan in whose memory the Mundkur Memorial Lecture and Narasimham Academic Award contest are organised every year.

Mundkur Memorial Lecture

This year the 15th Mundkur Memorial Lecture is being delivered by Dr. M. S. Pavgi, Irwin Professor of Agricultural Sciences, Faculty of Agriculture, Banaras Hindu University, Varanasi on "Some notable contributions to studies in Mycology". We are thankful to him for accepting the assignment.

Prof. M. J. Narasimham Academic Award Contest

A contest for the award was held during the annual meeting of the Society at University of Agricultural Sciences, Bangalore. Five young scientists participated. The award was shared by two papers.

- (i) A new selection of soybean against *Rhizoctonia solani* by Drs. A. K. Sarbhoy and D. K. Agarwal.
- (ii) Possible use of carbendazim in control of root rot of apple by V. K. Gupta.

For this year's contest we have received 21 papers.

General Paper Reading Session

I am happy to inform that the General Paper Reading Session is becoming popular. This time, we have received 66 papers, for presentation. The abstracts of the papers presented and approved shall be printed in the Journal.

Plant Disease Problems

During the year under report a few more copies worth Rs. 1365.70 have been sold. This brings the total amount collected by way of sale proceeds of the volume to Rs. 18,720.10 out of Rs. 25,000/- invested by the Society.

Advertisement in Indian Phytopathology

As you are aware, we have started printing advertisements in our Journal in order to increase the income of the Society. For the year 1977 we received only one 1/2 page advertisement for volume 30. I request all the members to help the Society by procuring more advertisements relating to the field of agricultural sciences.

Council Meeting

During the year under report, two meetings of the Council were held. However, in all important policy matters, views of the members of Council were obtained by post.

Annual Meeting

According to Article 9(i) of the constitution and bye laws of the Society, it was decided to hold 30th annual meeting at G. B. Pant University of Agriculture and Technology, Pantnagar which is an important centre for Mycology and Plant Pathology research in the country. We are grateful to Dr. D. P. Singh, Vice-Chancellor for hosting the meeting at this campus and for providing all the facilities. We are thankful to Dr. R. S. Singh and his colleagues who have taken up all the responsibility for making this meeting a success.

Finally, I wish to express my sincere thanks to Dr. J. S. Chohan, our President for his guidance and advice in day-to-day functioning of the Society. I also wish to thank members of the Executive Council for their cooperation and would like particularly to thank members of the Council at the headquarters for their help and suggestions in various matters.

In the end, I extend my special thanks to the Secretariat staff at the Headquarters without whose active cooperation, it would not have been possible to run the affairs of the Society.

M. S. CHATRATH