

**REPORT OF THE INDIAN PHYTOPATHOLOGICAL SOCIETY FOR THE
YEAR 1979 PRESENTED AT THE 32ND ANNUAL GENERAL BODY MEETING
HELD AT HYDERABAD ON FEBRUARY 7, 1980**

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

I have great pleasure in welcoming you all to this 32nd Annual General body meeting of your society and present to you its annual report for the year 1979. I appreciate your presence here and thank you for sparing your valuable time for this meeting.

At the last Annual meeting, I had referred to the permanent office of the society at its Headquarters. The room has been renovated by providing storage space for the periodicals at a cost of Rs. 2,500/-.

Since we met in February last at Baroda, I am sorry to inform that several members of the society and some renowned Plant Pathologists namely Dr. S. Sinha, Dr. S. C. Chaudhury, Mr. Jagdishwar Nath, Dr. J. M. Wallace, Dr. M. K. Hingorani and Prof. J. C. Luthra have left us for heavenly abode. On behalf of the society, we send our heart felt condolences to the bereaved families.

The numerical strength of the society in terms of its members remained stationary. During the year, 122 members joined the society while 147 have not paid their dues. Thus total number of members on 31st December, 1979 stands at 1068, and subscribers at 400.

I am happy to inform that the financial position of the society continues to be satisfactory. The society maintains savings accounts with three banks namely, Grindlays Bank Ltd., Syndicate Bank and Bank of India and the credit in savings accounts with these banks and cash in hand is Rs. 103,836.31. In addition, a sum of Rs. 10,000/- has been invested in 12 years National Defence Certificates due in 1981. A sum of Rs. 60,000/- is in fixed deposit with M/s. Grindlays Bank Ltd. for 5 years due in 1982. A sum of Rs. 11,000/- received from Dr M. J. Thirumalachar, interest on which is to be used as award money for Prof. M. J. Narasimhan Academic Award contest has been put in fixed deposit in Syndicate Bank for 63 months due in 1984. Thus the total assets amount to Rs. 148,836.31. Several cheques are still in the process of collection. During the year, the receipts amount to Rs. 144,482.65 and expenditure amount to Rs. 112,969.07., thus leaving a balance of Rs. 31,513.58. We have paid the cost of printing of four issues of our Journal Indian Phytopathology Vol. 31 (No. 2-4) of 1978 and volume 31 (No. 1) of 1979. Printing of the Journal is in the hands of M/s. Kapoor Art Press, New Delhi. Indian Council of Agricultural Research has given us financial assistance of Rs. 10,000/- towards the printing of the journal and we are thankful to the Council for this assistance.

I am glad to inform that following 35 members namely, Drs. Upendra Gupta, S. S. Aujla, S. P. Kapur, V. Muniyappa, S. K. Hasija, J. P. Gupta, P. M. Mukhewar, J. S. Gill, L. C. Sharma, S. R. Chowdhury, G. P.

Singh, K. S. S. Easwaran, K. B. Khare, P. P. Reddy, A. Gaur, R. H. Singh, P. Mehta, M. Koti Reddy, K. K. Pandey, K. D. Srivastava, Y. L. Nene, R. N. Thakur, S. M. Reddy, R. N. Verma, Dharam Vir Singh, Qamar A. Naqui, M. P. Haware, D. S. Shukla, S. Anthoni Raj, K. C. Basu Chaudhary, M. P. Tandon, T. Prasad, Mrs. N. Bahl, Mrs. Alka Pandey, V. Narasimhan have been admitted as fellows of the society (FPSI).

Lectures and other activities

Under the auspices of the society, a zonal symposium on 'Plant disease problems of North India' was organised at Srinagar. We are thankful to Dr. T. N. Kaul, Councillor North Zone for organising this.

The society organised a number of lectures by scientists both at the Headquarters and in different zones. Dr. J. P. H. Vander Want, Professor and Head, Virology Laboratory, Agriculture University, Wageningen gave a lecture on "Genetics of Viruses", Dr. M. R. S. Iyengar, Director, Antibiotics and Microbial Products Division, Alembic Chemical Works, Baroda spoke on "Some neglected aspects of Plant Pathology" at New Delhi. Dr. Y. L. Nene, Principal Pathologist (Pulses) of ICRIAT gave a talk on "Pigeon Pea Diseases" at Akola.

A group discussion of Plant Pathologists was arranged with Dr. Karl Maramorosch, F. A. O. Consultant at Tirupati.

I am thankful to Dr. N. N. Khune and Dr. J. Subbayya for organising these activities in their zones.

For the last 2 years, we have been organising successfully panel discussion on diseases of tropical importance. The proceedings of the panel discussion organised at Baroda have been published in the Journal. For the panel discussion, which is being held tomorrow a topic of great importance viz., "Management of soil borne diseases" has been selected.

As you are aware, the society decided 2 years back to bring out a book on Phytopathological Techniques where chapters are contributed by different specialists. Dr. C. L. Sethi and myself were assigned to do this job. I am happy to inform that significant progress has been made in this direction. A few chapters have already been received from authors which are in the process of editing. We hope that the book will be out before the end of the year.

As per the decision taken last year the work on organisation of 3rd International Symposium in Plant Pathology to be held in later part of 1981 has been initiated. The nucleus organising committee met several times during the year to work out the details and other aspects. The organising committee has been enlarged and I am happy to inform that Dr. O. P. Gautam, Director-General, Indian Council of Agricultural Research has agreed to be the patron of the National Organising Committee. The Council has been approached for permission of the Govt. of India for holding the symposium. The list of the topics for the symposium has been drawn up. For day to day working and making arrangements for the symposium a steering committee of 10-12 members has been formed.

Jeersanidhi Lecture Award

As you know the society received an offer from Dr. M. J. Thirumalachar for institution of Science Lecture Award to be given by one of the members distinguished in his field. The honorarium for this award is Rs. 1000/-. This proposal was approved by the Executive Council and General Body last year. A sub-committee with Dr. R. S. Vasudeva as Chairman was formed to go into the details of the procedure for selection and presentation of the award and other aspects to be followed by the society for this award. This committee has finalised the rules and regulations governing this award which have been approved by the Executive Council. I will like to place on record our sincere thanks to Chairman and members of the committee for their cooperation and helping us in formulation of the rules and regulations for this lecture award.

The donor had suggested that the award be initiated with a Lecture by Prof. R. N. Tandon and wished that his name need not come under the usual selection procedures followed by the society. The general body referred this proposal to the sub-committee formed to formulate rules and regulations for final decision. The sub-committee suggested that Dr. Tandon be invited to give inaugural Lecture in this series but his Lecture will not be an award Lecture. In addition, the committee also suggested that Senior most past President (age factor) of the Society should also be invited to preside over this Lecture.

As per this decision, Dr. Tandon was approached for the inaugural lecture but he expressed his inability.

Mundkur Memorial Lecture

The 17th Mundkur Memorial Lecture is being delivered this year by Dr. B. L. Chona, formerly Head of the Division of Mycology and Plant Pathology, IARI, New Delhi on "A brief review of red rot, the most important disease of sugarcane in India and Sugar Industry". We are thankful to him for accepting the assignment.

Prof. M. J. Narasimhan Academic Award Contest

This contest is being held every year since 1972 for an award of Rs. 1000/- to encourage younger scientists. This year, we have received 11 papers for presentation.

General paper reading session

I am happy to inform that sessions for presentation of research findings is becoming popular. This year, we have received about 140 papers for presentation. The abstracts of the papers presented and approved shall be printed in the Journal.

Plant Disease Problem

During the year under report, a few more copies worth Rs. 1042.50 have been sold. This brings the total amount collected by way of sale proceeds of the volume to Rs. 20603.80 out of Rs. 25,000/-invested by the society.

Council meeting

During the year under report, one meeting of the council was held. However, in important matters, views of the members of the council were obtained by correspondence.

Annual meeting

It was decided to hold the 32nd Annual meeting of the society at Hyderabad. We are thankful to Dr. A. Appa Rao and his colleagues who have taken up all the responsibility for organising this meeting.

I wish to express my sincere thanks to Dr. G. Rangaswami 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, active help and suggestions in various matters. I extend my special thanks to the secretarial staff at Headquarters without whose active cooperation, it would not have been possible to run the affairs of the society in an efficient way.

Finally my sincere thanks are also due to our fellows and members of the society who have continued to repose their trust in us. I would like to thank you all for your encouragement and support.

M. S. CHATRATH