IAPPS GOVERNING BOARD MEMBER DR MUNIAPPAN WINS BIFAD AWARD FOR WORK IN TROPICAL AGRICULTURE

Saving the papaya industry in southern India. Discovering an invasive species in Senegal and Nepal. Connecting researchers in developing countries. These are some of the accomplishments of IAPPS North America Regional Coordinator and Governing Board member, entomologist Rangaswamy "Muni" Muniappan, that caught the attention of the Board for International Food and Agricultural Development and that won him the organization's 2014 award for scientific excellence.

Muni received the BIFAD Award for Scientific Excellence on October 14, 2014, in Des Moines, Iowa. It is presented each year by the presidentially appointed body that governs U.S. foreign assistance in agriculture.

Muni is director of the USAID funded Integrated Pest Management a venture that works in developing countries to achieve three vital aims: minimize crop losses, increase farmer income, and decrease pesticide use, which is managed by Virginia Tech's Office of International Research, Education, and Development (OIRED).

A longtime expert in the study of insects that benefit or harm humans, Muni leads a multimillion dollar research portfolio of projects that includes partners from 16 American universities and 51 overseas organizations.

He discovered the papaya mealybug in Asia and helped employ biological control to eradicate it, which restored the livelihoods of thousands of farmers on the Asian subcontinent. This translated to an economic benefit of more than $1 billion over five years, according to a study published in the Journal of Crop Protection. His discovery of the tomato leafminer (Tuta absoluta) in Senegal allowed experts to be warned so that preventive biological control measures could be taken for a pest that likely threatens all sub-Saharan tomato farmers.
His achievements also include control of such pests as the pink hibiscus mealybug, the fruit-piercing moth, the red coconut scale, the banana weevil, and the Asian cycad scale. He has worked to control weeds including the Siam weed, lantana, and the ivy gourd. He has been instrumental in establishing working groups for the weeds chromolaena and parthenium within the International Organization for Biological Control.

Muni’s career includes 36 years spent in Guam; a stint as a Fulbright Research Scholar in India; a UN Food and Agriculture Organization consultant in the Maldives, Palau, and Vanuatu; and a visiting professorship at the University of Guyana. An honorary member of the International Organization for Biological Control since 2010, he has published journal articles in the Journal of Economic Entomology and Annals of the Entomological Society of America.

Please join me in congratulating Muni for this prestigious award on behalf of the IAPPs family.

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**JOINT APS-CPS 2014 CONFERENCE**

Over 1,500 delegates from 45 countries attended the symposia, workshops, 4 plenary lectures and 35 technical sessions on the management and control of diseases of crops at the American Phytopathological Society (APS) and Canadian Phytopathological Society (CPS) joint meeting in Minneapolis, MN, USA from August 10-13, 2014. Seventy delegates from Canada attended the meeting. Rick Bennett, the APS President–Elect and the APS Annual Meetings Program Chair, and Deena Errampalli, CPS President-Elect and the CPS Programs Chair were members of the APS-CPS joint meeting program planning committee. The theme of the meeting was “Plant Health Connections.”

Errampalli was invited to the 2014 APS Presidential Meeting of Plant Pathology Organizations and APS International Society Relations Committee (ISRC), where she met with presidents or representatives of plant pathology societies from Australasia, China, International society, Japan, Korea, Latin America, Mexico, South Africa and USA. They discussed the issues that are important each of the societies and how to develop ways to foster collaborations among the sister societies of plant pathology.

One of the plenary lectures was the Glenn Anderson Lectureship Award on security of world food supply (http://phytopath.ca/glenn_anderson.shtml). Dr. Jennifer Thomson (http://web.uct.ac.za/org/sawise/RoleModels/rolethomson.htm) of the University of Cape Town in South Africa presented a lecture titled “Genetically Modified Crops for Africa: Healthy Plants and Healthy Bodies” which jointly sponsored by CPS and APS.
The CPS honoured scientists who have made important contributions to plant pathology in Canada: Dr. Denis Gaudet of Agriculture & Agri-Food Canada in Lethbridge was the recipient of the award of CPS Fellow and his award will be presented at the 2015 awards ceremony. The award for Outstanding Research was received by Dr. Richard Belanger, Université Laval, Québec. Dr. Zie Feng, Alberta Agriculture and Rural Development, Edmonton, received the Outstanding Young Scientist Award. The award of Achievements in Plant Disease Management award was received by the Club Root Mitigation Team, comprised of Stephen Strelkov, Gary Peng, Sheau-Fang Hwang, Bruce Gossen, Mary Ruth McDonald, Ron Howard, and Clint Jurke. Graduate student travel awards and scholarships were presented to several graduate students of plant pathology.

The conference concluded with the final night celebration of good food, fellowship, networking and dancing with the APS, CPS and international plant pathologists. A group of CPS and APS members have organized a CPS-APS joint lecture initiative for 2015 at this party, which shows net-working and face to face meetings work beautifully!

Dr. Deena Errampalli took office of the President of the Canadian Phytopathological Society (CPS) on August 10, 2014 at the APS-CPS joint meeting in Minneapolis, MN, USA. Deena has served as Vice President (2012-13) and President Elect (2013-14) and she will serve as President for one year (2014-15). Deena has been a member of APS since 1984 and CPS since 1992 and has served as the Secretary of the CPS Executive Board from 2003-2007. Since 2007, she has been the Section Editor of Canadian Journal of Plant Pathology, a journal of CPS. Deena was honoured to present a talk on ‘how to be a successful professional’ to more than 50 graduate students at the First Timers Session (by invitation only). Interestingly, this was her 30th anniversary of home coming to APS, as she joined the society as a graduate student (Oklahoma State University) and attended the APS meeting as a first timer in 1984. Deena said, “it was my turn to give back and I was happy to do so”.
The Canadian Phytopathological Society Inc. (CPS), founded in 1929, is a professional organization dedicated to creating and sharing knowledge of plant pathology in Canada and throughout the world. The objective of CPS is to encourage and support research and education in plant pathology, to promote public awareness of the importance of plant diseases and of the socio-economic benefits of controlling them, and to act as a forum for discussion of policies and strategies affecting all aspects of research and education in plant pathology in Canada. The current membership of CPS is 300 and the society publishes peer-reviewed journal, Canadian Journal of Plant Pathology. In addition, CPS publishes books, Diseases of field crops and Diseases of pests of vegetable crops in Canada. CPS holds annual scientific meetings in Canada and meets with APS once every 5-8 years and with Plant Canada once every 4 years. More information can be found at http://phytopath.ca

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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:

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