



International Association for the
PLANT PROTECTION SCIENCES

NEWSLETTER

Number VIII

August, 2015

IAPPS BOARD MEMBER DR EL-BOUHSSINI RECEIVES KSU DISTINGUISHED ALUMNUS AWARD



Dr. Mustapha El Bouhssini, IAPPS Governing Board member and Coordinator for Region VII: West Asia, received the 2014 Distinguished Alumnus from the Entomology Department at Kansas State University (KSU). This prestigious award is in recognition for his major achievements in the area of integrated pest management of cereal and food legumes pests in North Africa, West and Central Asia.

Mustapha is a principal entomologist at the International Center for Agricultural Research in the Dry Areas (ICARDA). He has been an Adjunct Faculty

member in the Department of Entomology at KSU since December 1, 2005. Congratulations to Mustapha on behalf of the whole IAPPS family.

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MANAGEMENT OF THE SOUTH AMERICAN TOMATO LEAFMINER, *TUTA ABSOLUTA*

The 18th International Plant Protection Congress will be held in Berlin, Germany, August 24-27, 2015. In this congress, there will be a workshop on “Management of the South American Tomato Leafminer, *Tuta absoluta*” on August 25, 2015 starting at 7.30 pm and lasting two to three hours.

This workshop will review the biology, spread, damage, monitoring and the control tactics including regulatory, physical, cultural, chemical and biological methods. There will be a discussion on current *Tuta absoluta* projects worldwide and the possible initiation of national, regional and global projects for the management of *T. absoluta* and the current and potential role of donor agencies.

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FIRST REPORT OF A NEW CROP VIRUS IN NORTH AMERICA

University of Illinois researchers have confirmed the first report of a potential new virus belonging to the genus *Marafivirus* in switchgrass, a biomass crop being evaluated for commercial cellulosic ethanol production.



Bright Agindotan, a former postdoctoral researcher at the Energy Biosciences Institute

The virus is associated with mosaic and yellow streak symptoms on switchgrass leaves. This virus has the potential of reducing photosynthesis and decreasing biomass yield. Members of this genus have been known to cause severe yield losses in other crops. For example, Maize rayado fino virus (MRFV), a type member of the genus, has been reported to cause yield reductions in corn grown in Mexico, Central America and South America.

"Viral diseases are potentially significant threats to bioenergy crops such as *Miscanthus x giganteus*, energycane and switchgrass," said Bright Agindotan, research associate working in Carl Bradley's

laboratory as part of the Energy Biosciences Institute (EBI) located in the Institute for Genomic Biology at the U of I. "Our team at

EBI has been charged with identifying potential pests and pathogens of these bioenergy crops."

Until recently, little has been known about viruses in these bioenergy crops. Agindotan said most plants can be infected with multiple viruses, making it a challenge to know which viruses to start screening for, especially when only a few viruses have been reported to affect these crops. Agindotan developed a method that allows for the identification of a virus without prior knowledge of it. He successfully used sequence-independent amplification (SIA) to identify RNA viruses. This is the first time it has been fully described and used for plant virus identification.

You can read the full report at

<http://www.igb.illinois.edu/news/first-report-new-crop-virus-north-america>

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The IAPPS Newsletter is published by the International Association for the Plant Protection Sciences and distributed in *Crop Protection* to members and other subscribers. *Crop Protection*, published by Elsevier, is the Official Journal of IAPPS.

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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