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## **A TRIBUTE TO IPPAD AWARDEE VITTORIO DELUCCHI**



**The Biocontrol and IPM family has lost one of its most prominent figures of the past 60 years: Prof Vittorio Delucchi passed away on Nov 26, 2015 at the age of 90.** He started his scientific career way back in 1949 at the European Laboratory of the Commonwealth Institute of Biological Control (CIBC) in Feldmeilen (Switzerland), where he soon became a specialist of the parasitoid families *Pteromalidae* and *Eulophidae* (Hym., *Chalcidoidea*). He was particularly interested in the taxonomy and rearing of natural enemies against the white-fir woolly aphid which had established as an invasive species in Canada, becoming one of the pioneers in quantitative and qualitative ecology applied to natural regulation of pest populations.

Prof Delucchi continued his research career with FAO in Morocco and later in Rome, where he became the head of the entomology division until 1968, when he was nominated ordinary professor of entomology at the Swiss Federal Institute of Technology

(ETHZ) in Zurich. During his tenure until 1990, Vittorio contributed immensely to the development of a critical and holistic approach to plant protection by considering 'pests' as an integral part of the agro-ecosystem, and contribution to their management in the context of plant-pest-natural enemy interactions. This approach was based on ecological principles of pest population dynamics, supported by efforts of his younger collaborators, post-docs and PhD students, in developing complex computer simulation modelling. This endeavor was part of an

international trust, including e.g. UC Berkeley, to develop and deploy science-based approaches for solving continent-wide problems such as the cassava mealybug outbreak in Africa in the early 80s. Vittorio's scholars and collaborators at the International Institute of Tropical Agriculture (IITA) were leading the biological control campaign against this invasive insect pest, today still considered one of the most successful biocontrol projects worldwide and internationally recognized by the prestigious World Food Prize. Vittorio became more formally associated with IITA with his nomination in 1991 to serve on the IITA Board of Trustees, position he held until 1993.

He has been a founding member of the International Organization for Biological Control (IOBC) established in 1956, where he served as Secretary General (1968–1976), Treasurer (1977-1980) and President (1984-1988). In all these functions, Vittorio was passionately engaged for the worldwide promotion of biological control and IPM, at the same time warning of the unintended side-effects of inappropriate pesticide use.

**To recognize all these achievements, at IPPC XV in Beijing in 2004, Vittorio was bestowed with the IAPPS International Plant Protection Award of Distinction (IPPAD).**

His innovative and critical thinking in plant protection will survive in the heart and gestures of his many scholars, and their own students and collaborators worldwide.

**Drs Markus Bieri and Franz Biegler**

On behalf of Prof Delucchi's scholars

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## **ESA2015 SYMPOSIUM ON IPM PROGRAMS FOR TROPICAL CROPS**

The USAID-sponsored Integrated Pest Management Innovation Lab (IPM IL) organized and conducted a symposium on “IPM Programs for Tropical Crops” during the joint meeting of the Entomological Society of America, Agronomy Society of America, Crop Science Society of America and the Soil Science Society of America in Minneapolis, Minnesota on November 15, 2015.

There were eight presentations:

1. “The role of IPM in USAID’s Feed the Future Initiative” by John Bowman, Agreement Officer’s Representative, IPM IL, USAID;
2. “IPM Innovation Lab – Renewed Commitment to Africa and Asia” by Amer Fayad, Associate Director, IPM IL;
3. Novel Attract and Kill Technologies for IPM of Tropical Crops” by Agenor Mafra-Neto, CEO, ISCA Technologies;
4. “Management of Virus Diseases of Vegetable Crops in Developing Countries” by Naidu

Rayapati, Virologist, Washington State University;

5. Augmentative on-farm release of parasitoids to control the millet headminer in Niger by Laouali Amadou, INRAN, Maradi, Niger;

6. “Management of sunn pest in West and Central Asia” by Mustapha El-Bouhssini, Entomologist, ICARDA, Morocco, IAPPS GB Representative for

7. “Rice IPM in Cambodia” by Ngin Chhay, Rice Crop Department, Ministry of Agriculture, Cambodia; and

8. “IPM for Cowpea in Africa” by Manuele Tamò, Entomologist and Country Representative, IITA, Benin, IAPPS Vice-President.



Presenters fltr: Amer Fayad, Manuele Tamò, Naidu Rayapati, Rangaswamy Muniappan, Ngin Chhay, Laouali Amadou, John Bowman, Agenor Mafra-Neto

There symposium was attended by over 50 participants and was animated by several stimulating interventions and discussions.

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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](http://www.plantprotection.org).**

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