



International Association for the  
**PLANT PROTECTION SCIENCES**

IAPPS

**NEWSLETTER**

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## **INTRODUCING TWO NEW IAPPS GOVERNING BOARD MEMBERS: COORDINATOR REGION IV: WEST/CENTRAL AFRICA**



On behalf of the **Executive Committee of the IAPPS Governing Board**, I have the pleasure to welcome **Dr. Souleymane Nacro** as our new **Governing Board member, Coordinator Region IV: West/Central Africa**.

Currently senior entomologist at the Institute of Environment and Agricultural Research (INERA) of Burkina Faso, Souleymane earned a PhD in biological sciences in 1994 from the University of Rennes I in France and received several post-graduate trainings at IITA in 1986, IRRI in 1988 (IPM), Cornell University in 2000-2001 and Michigan State University in 2003 (Agroecology).

Dr. Nacro has authored or co-authored over 100 publications including peer-reviewed scientific articles published in

national, regional or international journals, books and book chapters and extension materials. He works on the biology and the ecology of insect pests of cereals, particularly rice, and investigates IPM strategies, and has supervised the research work of dozens of PhD., MSc. and BSc. students.

Dr. Nacro has dedicated an important part of his career to the transfer of research results to farmers. In this regard, he was instrumentalized by FAO from 1995 to 2009 to popularize the participatory training in IPM through Farmers' Field Schools (FFS) in Francophone West Africa. These trainings included several agricultural commodities including rice, vegetables, cotton-based cropping systems, organic mango and cassava.

From 2001 to 2009, Souleymane was the National Technical Coordinator of the Integrated Production and Pest Management Program for Burkina Faso. From 2009 to 2013 he was the Executive Director of both "Fasobiocarburant SARL" and "Fondation Fasobiocarburant", two institutions dedicated to the promotion of biofuels. This initiative resulted in the implementation of a production unit for biopesticides and biofertilizers that directly or indirectly employs hundreds of women and youth in rural areas.

In addition to IAPPS, Souleymane is a member of the Entomological Society of Burkina, the Association of African Insect Scientists, and the Entomological Society of America.

## COORDINATOR REGION VII: SOUTH ASIA



I am equally honored to welcome **Dr. Rajan Sharma** as our new **Governing Board member, Coordinator Region VII: South Asia**. **Dr. Sharma** obtained his Ph.D. in Plant Pathology from CSKHPKV, Palampur, India.

### Professional and Academic Appointments

- Assistant Scientist, SKUST, Srinagar, India; 11 June 2004- 28 Feb 2005
- Project Scientist, HP Agriculture University, Palampur, India; 1 March 2005-26 Sep 2006
- Scientist, Cereals Pathology, ICRISAT, 27 Sep 2006- 31 March 2010
- Senior Scientist, Cereals Pathology, ICRISAT, 1 April 2010- 6 Sep 2011
- Senior Scientist, Cereals Pathology and Head PQL, ICRISAT, 7 Sep 2011- 30 June 2015
- Principal Scientist, Cereals Pathology and Head, Plant Quarantine Unit, ICRISAT, 1 July 2015- 30 June 2021
- Principal Scientist and Cluster Leader – Crop Protection & Seed Health, 1 July 2021 – till date

### Professional Experience

Disease detection and phenotyping; disease management through host plant resistance; integrated disease management; monitoring virulence spectrum of plant pathogens; seed pathology and plant quarantine; application of molecular tools to study genetic diversity in plant pathogens- *Sclerospora graminicola* and *Magnaporthe grisea* (rice, pearl millet, and finger millet blast), development of PCR-compatible markers and their use in genetic diversity assessment; elucidating the molecular basis of plant-pathogen interaction, identification of resistance sources and association mapping for disease resistance in sorghum; development of diagnostic protocols and salvaging techniques for infested/infected germplasm. Guided over 10 M.Sc. and Ph.D. students, mentored many researchers and PDFs, and organized training/capacity building programs for NARS in Asia and Africa.

### Awards and Honors

- **Gold medal for Ph.D.** conferred by Him-Utkarsh Society, Una, H.P. India
- **International Plant Protection Congress Award for Scientific Achievement (2019)** – Presented by International Association for the Plant Protection Sciences (IAPPS)
- **Organizing Secretary** 19<sup>th</sup> International Plant Protection Congress (IPPC2019)

- **Chief Editor**, Indian Journal of Plant Protection (2016-18)
- **Vice-President (2014-16)** Plant Protection Association of India
- **ICRISAT Science Award (2014 and 2019)** for Outstanding Partnership
- **Certificate of Merit (2009)** by ICAR-AICPMIP

*Scientific Publications*: Research Articles – 80; Book – 1; Book Chapters – 20; Lead paper/poster presentations – >50

Souleymane takes over from Dienaba Sall, while Rajan takes over from Hari Sharma as the previous Regional Coordinators, to whom I would like to express my warmest thanks for their contribution to IAPPS

Please join me in welcoming Souleymane and Rajan to the IAPPS GB and family!

**Prof. E. A. “Short” Heinrichs**  
 IAPPS Secretary General  
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## **CAPACITY BUILDING FOR COACHING AND TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE TO NATIONAL PLANT PROTECTION AGENCIES IN AFRICA**

From August 11 to October 13, 2022, COLEACP (since Jan. 1, 2023, COLEACP has become COLEAD - Committee Linking Entrepreneurship Agriculture Development) organized a series of 10 capacity building workshops for 12 African plant protection experts selected based on their background and motivation. COLEACP is a network of companies, professional organizations and experts committed to inclusive and sustainable agriculture. Operationally, their work is technical cooperation to support sustainable and inclusive private sector development and create an enabling environment (including working with relevant authorities) in 50 African, Caribbean and Pacific (ACP) countries. This capacity building took place under COLEACP's Fit For Market SPS program.

### **Context and Issues**

This training took place in a context where (i) phytosanitary requirements are increasingly stringent and demanding (ii) it has been highlighted that there are gaps in the national control systems in ACP countries (iii) there are significant capacity building needs of the horticultural sector actors in ACP countries.

The main challenge of this training was to expand the pool of COLEACP experts to professionally support the required changes.

### **Objectives of the program**

The training program included three objectives:

- To master the organizational and technical aspects of National Plant Protection Organizations (NPPOs) in relation to International Plant Protection Convention (IPPC) requirements and the International Standards for Phytosanitary Measures (ISPM);

- To promote the sharing of experiences and good practices;
- To cover three topics: pest surveillance, phytosanitary risk analysis (PRA) and the listings of regulated pests and official controls.

### **Participants**

The program gathered 12 participants from Benin (1), Burkina Faso (2), Burundi (1), Cameroon (1), Côte d'Ivoire (1), Guinea (2), Madagascar (2) and Togo (2).

### **Training methodology**

- Participatory facilitation by the trainer of a series of virtual workshops;
- Alternating synchronous and asynchronous sessions;
- Personal work and sharing.

### **Dr. Souleymane Nacro**

IAPPS coordinator for Region IV: West/Central Africa

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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).**

**The *IAPPS Newsletter* welcomes news, letters, and other items of interest from individuals and organizations. Address correspondence and information to:**

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