

10th International Plant Virus Epidemiology Symposium Held in India



The 10th International Plant Virus Epidemiology (IPVE) Symposium, themed “Controlling Epidemics of Emerging and Established Plant Virus Diseases—The Way Forward,” was held in October 2007 at the International Crops Research Institute for the Semi-Arid Tropics (ICRISAT), Hyderabad, India. The symposium, first ever of the series to be held in Asia, was attended by 217 scientists and students from 27 countries contributing to a total 58 oral presentation and 118 poster presentations. Abstracts of oral and poster presentations were published and distributed to all participants.

The symposium began with the introduction by **P. Lava Kumar** (International Institute of Tropical Agriculture, Nigeria), convener of the 10th IPVE Symposium; welcome addresses by **F. Waliyar** (ICRISAT), chair of the Organizing Committee; inaugural address by **D. Keatinge** (deputy director general of ICRISAT); and inaugural lecture by **R. A. C. Jones** (Agriculture Research Western Australia), chair of the IPVE Committee, on the topic “Dynamics of plant viruses at the interface of ancient and recent agroecosystems,” with **N. Rishi** (president of the Indian Virological Society) presiding the inaugural session.

Presentations and discussions held under eight separate technical sessions during the 4 days focused on the causes for the emergence of several unknown viruses and the resurgence of several established viruses and on advances in plant virus epidemiology and disease management, well reflecting the theme of the symposium.

A contingent of virologists from the United States, **J. M. Alvarez**, Idaho State University, Aberdeen; **U. Melcher**, Oklahoma State University, Stillwater; **F. Nutter, Jr.**, Iowa State University, Ames; and **H. R. Pappu**, Washington State University, Pullman, delivered the keynote presentations. Other participants from the United States included **N. Bharathan**, Indiana University of Pennsylvania, Indiana; **S. J. Castle**, USDA-ARS, Arizona; **S. D. Eigenbrode**, University of Idaho, Moscow; **K. Maramorosch**, Rutgers-University of New Jersey, New Brunswick; and **N. Prabhaker**, University of California, Riverside.

In other keynote and invited lectures, results of ongoing research on diverse crops, viruses, and vectors in different parts of the world were presented by **J. M. Thresh**, United Kingdom; **I. Barker**, Peru; **S. Winter**, Germany; **P. Lava Kumar**, Nigeria; **R. A. A. van der Vlugt**, the Netherlands; **A. E. Aboul-Ata** and **K. Makkouk**, Egypt; **J. Kundu**, Czech Republic; **F. Waliyar**, **R. K. Khetarpal**, **K. Muralidharan**, **K. S. Ravi**, and **A. Varma**, India; **A. Fereres**, Spain; **S. Blanc**, **D. Fargette**, and **H. Lecoq**, France; **C. Bragard**, Belgium; **T. Kühne**, Germany; **A. Gal-On**, **G. Loebenstein**, and **Y. Antignus**, Israel; **M. Ikegami**, Japan; and **B. Rodoni**, **M. J. Fletcher**, and **K. Anderson**, Australia.

In the business session, a new IPVE Committee was constituted. This session also discussed potential interaction and coordination between the International Plant Virus Epidemiology Group and the Plant Virus Ecology Coordination Network (PVEN) of the United States, led by **U. Melcher** (Oklahoma State University, Stillwater) and **C. Malmström** (Michigan State University, East Lansing). This led to a decision to hold the next symposium of the IPVE jointly with the PVEN meeting in the United States in 2010.

In the concluding session, **R. A. C. Jones**, chair of the IPVE Committee, and **F. Waliyar**, chair of the Organizing Committee, congratulated the organization team, particularly **P. Lava Kumar**, for the excellent organization of a successful meeting. They also conveyed special thanks to **R. K. Khetarpal** (National Bureau of Plant Genetic Resources, India), **K. Muralidharan** (Directorate of Rice Research, India), and **K. S. Ravi** (Mahyco Research Foundation, India) for excellent support. The meeting ended with ceremony by honoring all the keynote speakers and session co-chairs. **R. A. C. Jones**, **K. Maramorosch**, and **J. M. Thresh** were recognized for their long-standing contributions to the success of the IPVE Committee. A PDF version of the abstract book may be obtained by sending an e-mail to L.kumar@cgiar.org. ■

People



Maricelis Acevedo

Maricelis Acevedo graduated with her Ph.D. degree from the Department of Plant Pathology at the University of Nebraska-Lincoln (UNL) in August 2007. **James Steadman** was her advisor. Her dissertation was entitled “Coevolution

of the bean rust pathogen *Uromyces appendiculatus* with its wild, weedy and domesticated hosts (*Phaseolus* spp.) at its center of diversity.” During her time at UNL, Acevedo held both research and teaching assistantships in plant pathology and was awarded the Fling Graduate Fellowship (one of the highest merit fellowships given by UNL). After graduation, Acevedo accepted a position as a USDA research plant pathologist working on oat rust with **J. Michael Bonman** at the USDA-ARS Small Grains and Potato Germplasm Research Unit in Aberdeen, ID.

Camile P. Semighini graduated with her Ph.D. degree from the Department of Plant Pathology at the University of Nebraska-Lincoln (UNL) in July 2007. Semighini’s thesis advisor was **Steven Harris**. Her thesis was entitled



Camile P. Semighini

“Characterization of DNA damage and stress responses in the filamentous fungus *Aspergillus nidulans*.” As part of this project, Semighini demonstrated that the small molecule lipid farnesol causes apoptosis in filamentous fungi and provided initial insight into the mechanisms that regulate this response. During her time at UNL, Semighini received several awards, including the Milton Mohr Fellowship, a Distinguished Graduate Student Award from the Widaman Family Trust, and the campus-wide Outstanding Graduate Student Research Award. In September 2007, Semighini initiated her post-doctoral research at the Cold Spring Harbor Laboratories in New York.

The summer of 2007 was filled with new experiences for students in the Department of Plant Pathology at the University of Nebraska-Lincoln. The department provided undergraduate students in the new Plant Protection Sciences interdisciplinary program the opportunity to travel to Mexico on a study tour. In addition to agricultural events, such as tours of CYMMIT and visits to pineapple