

PREFACE

The Twelfth Conference of the International Organization of Citrus Virologists was held in New Delhi, India from November 23 to 27, 1992. It was preceded by a pre-conference tour (November 18-21) to the Sultanate of Oman to observe witches' broom disease of lime (WBDL). This tour was organized by Dr. J. M. Bové and Dr. A. Mjeni, advisor to the Omani Ministry of Agriculture. The 23 participants for the pre-conference tour gathered in New Delhi on November 17, and left together the next day by air for Oman. After an overnight stay at Seeb, they took a bus trip north along the superb coastal highway to Sohar, the home of Sinbad the Sailor. The first WBDL-affected trees and some symptoms of citrus canker were seen at the hotel there. Delegates enjoyed the fireworks display in Sohar which formed part of Oman's National Day celebrations. Visits were made to WBDL-affected groves in the Sohar area and further north in the El-Morer, Shinas and Liwa areas where the disease was originally found. The extreme destructiveness and rapid spread of this disease through the entire lime growing region alarmed all the visitors. Visits were also made to the Rumais experiment stations, the Ministry of Agriculture and Fisheries in Ruwi, and the Sultan Qaboos University near Muscat where a gathering of Omani scientists was addressed by some of the IOCV delegates. All accommodations and bus travel were provided by the government of Oman, for which the participants were most grateful. The visit ended with a dinner on the evening of the third day, after which the participants returned to New Delhi by air.

The conference began in the auditorium of the Indian Agricultural Research Institute (IARI), New Delhi, on November 23 with over 150 registered delegates from 22 countries. After words of welcome from Dr. S. K. Sinha, IARI Director and Mr. Chester Roistacher, IOCV Chairman, delegates were addressed by Dr. K. L. Chadha, Deputy Director-General of the Indian Council of Agricultural Research, and Dr. S. Z. Qasim, Member of the Planning Commission, Government of India. Plaques of honor were then presented to two IOCV members, Dr. Victoria Rossetti and Dr. S. P. Raychaudhuri, for their outstanding contributions over many years to citrus virology. Dr. Anupam Varma, Chairman of the Organizing Committee, then proposed a vote of thanks and the working sessions began.

A total of 96 papers were presented, including three invited papers from Monique Garnier, Chester Roistacher and Luis Navarro. All the papers on the first day were on tristeza. Day two began with more tristeza, followed by sessions on greening and citrus variegated chlorosis, the new severe bacterial disease in Brazil and Argentina. On the third day, papers on stubborn, witches' broom and psorosis were delivered. In the afternoon, a tour was made of the facilities at IARI. A variety of graft-transmissible diseases and viroid diseases were covered on day four and the final day was dedicated to budwood certification programs, status reports and IOCV business.

The entertainment program included a sound and light show at the Red Fort and an evening of classical music and dances from different parts of India. The IOCV banquet was held on the evening of November 27 at the Meridian Hotel, where Antonio Catara assumed the chairmanship of IOCV, and the selection of Richard Lee as chairman-elect was announced.

On November 29, delegates visited Hasapur, 70 km from Delhi, to view ringspot and dieback. On the following day, the delegates flew together from New Delhi to Bangalore to begin the post-conference field visits. These began with a round trip to the Hindupur area where tristeza and citrus canker in lime, greening and mosaic in sweet orange, and budunion incompatibility of sweet orange on rough lemon were observed. The second day included a visit to the experimental orchards of the Indian Institute of Horticultural Research at Hessaraghatta. In addition to tristeza and greening, this visit provided an opportunity to observe rubbery wood, a unique MLO-associated disease affecting lemon and lime trees. The beautiful tropical scenery of coffee and pepper plantings was enjoyed by the delegates during the trip from Bangalore to Mysore. Wild elephants and sandal spike, also an MLO disease, were some of the novelties of this trip for many delegates. A visit to the Gonicoppal station provided an opportunity to observe some unusual symptoms such as tristeza stem pitting on Coorg mandarin and yellow corky vein, a disease described only in India. The severe effects of greening on Coorg mandarin were observed in several plots. The last visit was to the experimental plots of the Chethelli station. In addition to tristeza and citrus scab symptoms, a general discussion on greening was held in the conference room. Also, a visit was made to a 3-yr-old plot in which 100% of the trees in this collection of diverse varieties were showing greening symptoms. This provided another reminder of how destructive this disease can be and the difficulties in growing citrus in areas where active spread of the disease occurs. The warm hospitality of the staff was enjoyed and appreciated by the delegates at all the experiment stations visited. On December 4, everyone returned to New Delhi, ending another successful IOCV conference. IOCV thanks Dr. Varma and all his colleagues in India for their efforts which made the 12th Conference and tour a memorable and wonderful experience. Appreciation is also expressed to Dr. J. M. Bové for his invaluable efforts in organizing these meetings.

All full-length papers in these proceedings were reviewed by two referees. We wish to express our thanks to the following who served as referees: Bernard Aubert, Moshe Bar-Joseph, Pat Barkley, Joseph Bové, Ron Brlansky, Mariano Cambra, Antonio Catara, Ken Derrick, Nuria Duran-Vila, Edith Elliot, Ricardo Flores, Monique Garnier, Steve Garnsey, Tim Gottwald, Don Hopkins, Andrew Lee, Richard Lee, Sanjay Maharaj, Barry Manicom, Luis Navarro, Chuck Niblett, George Oldfield, Benny Racciah, Chet Roistacher, Ed Rybicki, Michael Samways, Joe Semancik, Ron Sonoda, Fanie Van Vuuren, Louis von Broembsen, Mike Wallis, Vic Whitlock, and Ray Yokomi. Short Communications as well as abstracts of papers which were never received were edited by the committee, but not formally reviewed.

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