

PLANT PATHOLOGY AND GLOBAL FOOD SECURITY

THE ENORMITY OF THE PROBLEM

During the World Food Summit in Rome in 1996, Heads of States proposed to halve the number of undernourished people by 2015. In the ensuing 10 years, virtually no progress has been made towards this goal.

- More than 800 million people do not have adequate food
- 1.3 billion live on less than \$1 a day
- At least 10% of global food production is lost to plant disease

Plant pathologists cannot ignore the juxtaposition of these figures.

Virtually all undernourished people live in the developing countries of Asia, Africa and Latin America. Hunger and poverty are inextricably linked and the solution does not rely on one factor, but on an interrelated complex of factors that includes population, technology, policy and social changes.

Nevertheless, it is clear that reducing the impact of plant disease can help to alleviate the enormity of the problem of achieving global food security. A vast number of plant pathogens from viroids of a few hundred nucleotides to higher plants cause diseases in our crops. Their effects range from mild symptoms to catastrophes in which large areas planted to food crops are destroyed. Plant diseases threaten our food supplies: adequate resources should be devoted to their control

Public Discussion Forum, 25 August 2008

Organized by ISPP's Task Force on Global Food Security

WHAT ARE THE OPTIONS FOR MANAGING PLANT DISEASES TO IMPROVE FOOD SECURITY?

Six different aspects will be addressed.

- PETER SCOTT, International Society for Plant Pathology; RICHARD STRANGE, Birkbeck College, University of London

ISPP and the challenge of food security

- GURDEV KHUSH, World Food Prize Laureate, University of California Davis (the R Glenn Anderson Lecture)

Why plant diseases matter to food security

- HARRY EVANS, JIM WALLER, CABI

Globalization and the threat to biosecurity

- JAMES BROWN, John Innes Centre, Norwich

Genetic uniformity of crops and the threat to food security

- FLORENCE WAMBUGU, Africa Harvest Biotech Foundation International; DAVID BAULCOMBE, University of Cambridge

GM as a new tool in the resistance toolbox

- CORRADO CLINI, Global Bioenergy Partnership

Concluding remarks

These presentations will be followed by a general discussion to which all are invited to contribute.

Abstracts are archived at: http://www.isppweb.org/ICPP/ICPP_2008.pdf