Asian-Pacific Weed Science Society

NEWS LETTER

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A special Report from Vietnam on Weedy Rice

The following is a special report provided by Dr. Duong Van Chin from Vietnam on Weedy Rice.

Dr. Duong, a Past President of APWSS, presided over the 20th APWSS Conference, held in Ho Chi Min City, Vietnam in 2005.

Dr. Duong van Chin

Developing Imidazolinone-tolerant rice for controlling 'Weedy Rice' in Vietnam

Rice is the most important crop in Vietnam. The annual planted area in 2006 was 7.32 millions ha, which produced 35.83 millions tons of rice.

The two 'rice bowls' of the country are Mekong and Red River deltas. They contribute approximately 66.8% of planted areas and 69% of overall production each year. In the Red river delta, transplanting rice is popular and weedy rice occurrence is rare. In contrast, direct seeded rice is popular in the South of Vietnam, including the Mekong delta. In this type of rice culture, recently, weedy rice has emerged as a dangerous pest.

Two most important cropping seasons in Vietnam are Summer-Autumn and Winter-Spring seasons. The weedy rice infestations are far more serious in the former than in the latter.

Typical characteristics of weedy rice as compared with popular modern rice varieties in Vietnam are shorter duration, taller plants, weak culm, smaller seeds, easy shattering and red pericarp.

Contents of this Newsletter:

Yield loss due to weedy rice competition ranges from 15 to 17%. The quality of milled rice is also reduced due to the contamination of red grains from weedy rice. Some current methods for checking the spread of weedy rice are: using certified seeds, thorough land preparation, introduction of a deep layer of water in the field, sowing 'in line' for easy rogueing, and rotation with upland crops in the dry season.

Since January 2003, collaboration between the Cuulong Delta Rice Research Institute (CLRRI) and BASF was established. The Director of CLRRI, Prof. Dr. Bui Chi Buu and Mr. Michael Heint, Group Vice President of BASF, signed a " Material Transfer Agreement". According to this agreement, the CLRRI received 30 kg of certified seeds of one tropical japonica rice variety, namely CL161, and seven sets of F_2 progeny seeds of a crossing between IR 64 and CL161. Those lines and variety have the trait PWC-16, which makes rice resistant to the imidazolinone herbicide group. In 2003, CL 161 variety was tested at the CLRRI by spraying with herbicides belonging to imidazolinone group. Results revealed that all weedy rice plants and common weeds were killed completely, but CL 161 rice was safe.

The F_2 progenies were used to cross with some popular varieties in the Mekong delta such as OMCS 2000, OM 2395, IR 64, OM 1490, AS 996. Some promising lines were developed from those crosses. One of them was the variety OM 5749-5, which was then used in a herbicide trial in 2006. Several treatments of herbicides were given: imazapic + imazapyr @ 100, 110 and 120 g.a.i/ha; imazapyr @ 120 g.a.i./ha; imazethapyr + imazapyr @ 120 g.a.i./ha and imazapic @ 120 g.a.i/ha. Results showed that the tested herbicides successfully controlled weedy rice in the experimental field. All weedy rice plants were killed completely except in the treatment of imazapyr alone, in which 12.7 plants/m^2 survived; in all other treatments, none survived. In the check, the number of weedy rice was 182.7 plants/m^2. Common weeds, such as *Echinochloa crus-galli, Leptochloa chinensis*, *Cyperus difformis* were also killed completely by the herbicides. There were no phytotoxic symptoms on rice, because this variety had the trait of PWC- 16. The average rice yield in Summer-Autumn of 2006 under herbicidal treatments was 2,15 T/ha, whereas in the untreated check, the yield was only 0.88 T/ha.

The process of selection continues to be done on the segregated population. Eight homozygous lines have been achieved, namely: OMCF 6(O Mon Clear Field), OMCF 9, OMCF 17, OMCF 24, OMCF 39, OMCF 46, OMCF 47 and OMCF 48, all of which have the trait PWC-16.

The characteristics of those varieties are similar with the popular varieties planted in the Mekong delta. The average parameters of these eight varieties are: duration 98.8 days; plant height 104.9 cm, 1000- grain weight- 26.2 grams and yield 6.7 T/ha. These OMCF varieties are being tested in many locations in Vietnam and procedures are under preparation by CLRRI and BASF for the recognition of the new varieties in the future by the Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development of Vietnam.

16th Australian Weeds Conference held at Cairns

The 16th Australian Weeds Conference was held at Cairns Convention Centre during 18-22 May 2008. The biennial event is the premier weeds event in Australasia. On behalf of the Council of Australasian Weed Societies (Inc.), CAWS, the Weed Society of Queensland (Inc.), WSQ, organized the 2008 Conference.

The 16th AWS Conference theme was '*Weed Management 2008- Hot Topics in the Tropics*'.

As typical of previous Australian Conferences, this event too attracted a large gathering of national and international scientists and weed managers. More than 200 papers were presented under a variety of themes, which included the following:

- Biodiversity
- New Threats: Prediction and Risk Assessment
- New Threats: New Incursions
- New Threats: Herbicide resistance threats
- Understanding the Invader: Explaining Invasiveness
- Understanding the Invader: Understanding Herbicide resistance
- Understanding the Invader: Seed dispersal, spread and weed distributions
- Understanding the Invader: Species Ecology & Management; and Impacts
- New Technologies & Tools, Bio-Control, Biotechnology & Bio-herbicides; Herbicides
- Innovative Practices & Approaches: Community Process
- Innovative Practices & Approaches: Performance & Evaluation
- Innovative Practices & Approaches: Policy & Strategy
- Innovative Practices & Approaches: Applications; Integrated Weed Management; Modelling

The Conference Proceedings, edited by R. D. van Klinken, V. A. Osten, F. D. Panetta and J. C. Scanlan (ISBN 9780646488196), published in 2008 by the Queensland Weeds Society, is available as a soft cover book or as a CD-ROM, in Adobe Acrobat PDF file format.

Those requiring copies should contact the Weed Society of Queensland are **www.weedinfo.com.au**.

17th AWC Conference to be held in Christchurch, NZ in 2010 announced

The 17th Australasian Weeds Conference was also announced at the 16th AWC Conference. This would be organized by the New Zealand Plant Protection Society, in Christchurch, NZ.

The dates for the Conference are- **26-30th September 2010**.

Contact details for further information are as follows:

The Conference Secretariat,

Professional Development Group,

PO BOX 84, Lincoln University, Canterbury, 7647, NZ

The Website: **www.17awc.org** is also available for those seeking information.

A Message from Editor-in-Chief, Weed Biology & Management

The following is a Message from Dr. Tohru Tominaga, Editor-in-Chief, Weed Biology & Management Journal of the Weed Science Society of Japan, who announces the first impact factor for the WBM journal.

Dear APWSS Members,

I appreciate your continuous and great contributions to Weed Biology and Management (WBM), the international journal of the Weed Science Society of Japan, published with cooperation and encouragement of many of the national weed science societies affiliated with the Asian-Pacific Weed Science Society.

The first impact factor, 0.382 for WBM has been announced. This is very good news for the journal, although WBM is not performing well in comparison with other journals in our field and in related agricultural disciplines.

WBM accepts contributions in the form of original research and review articles. Contributions from weed scientists in the Asian-Pacific region are particularly welcomed.

Sincerely yours,

Tohru Tominaga

Editor in Chief

(tominaga@kais.kyoto-u.ac.jp)

5th International Weed Science Society (IWSS) Conference, held at Vancouver

APWSS Members made strong contributions at the recent 5th IWSS Conference, according to Dr. R. M. Kathiresan, Professor of Agronomy, Annamalai University, India. His brief Report of the Conference, highlighting this aspect, is given below.

Report on Contribution of APWSS members at IWSS 2008, Vancouver

The International Weed Science Society was first established in 1975. It has been promoted by six existing regional Weed Science Societies, including the APWSS.

IWSS organizes international weed science conferences once in four years, and so far, five of such conferences have been organized. The first was in Australia (1992), followed by Denmark (1996), Brazil (2000), South Africa (2004) and the latest one at Vancouver, Canada, during 22-27 June 2008.

Vancouver, British Coloumbia, with its scenic environs and multicultural base, offered an excellent venue. The Westin Bayshore Hotel threw all its facilities open for the comfort of the delegates and sessions. The theme of the congress was 'Weeds-local problems/global challenge' and comprised 22 main topic sessions with invited, oral presentations and posters.

About 500 scientists from 48 different countries attended the conference. A workshop was organized by European Weed Research Society on Non Linear Regression problems in weed science and another on Weedy Rice was also organized on 22nd of June 2008.

The main topics of the conference covered many fields of Weed Science, and included the following:

1. Biology, Dynamics and Ecology of Weeds
2. Integrated Weed Management
3. Modelling Problems and Solutions
4. Natural Products
5. Formulation and Adjuvants
6. Regulatory, Economic and Social Aspects
7. Herbicide Resistance in Crops and Weeds
8. Biological Control
9. New and Emerging Technologies
10. Site Specific Weed Management
11. Weed Management in Turf, Parks, Recreation Areas and Right-of-ways
12. Weed Management in Organic Farming
13. Management of Parasitic Weeds
14. Spread and Management of Invasive Species
15. Aquatic Weed Management
16. Education and Technology Transfer in Weed Science
17. Environmental Aspects of Weed Management
18. Weed Management in Field Crops
19. Weed Management in Forestry
20. Weed Management in Horticultural, Plantation and Minor Crops
21. Spotlight on Global Weeds; and
22. Synthetic Herbicides- Mode/mechanism of Action and Safeners.

Photograph shows some participants at the IWSS Conference. Dr. R. M. Kathiresan is in the centre.

Plenary lectures by eminent scientists in Weed Science and Agronomy, followed by invited oral presentation and posters under the main topics were organized on the first, second and fourth days. A field trip was arranged on day three.

The Session on "Spot light on Global Weeds" was jointly organized by Dr, Ricardo Labrada Romero, Weed Officer, FAO, Rome and Dr. R. M. Kathiresan. In this session, three participants from APWSS made oral presentations. Other main topic session organizers from APWSS were Mic Julien and Rick Llewellyn of Australia, Dr. Koichi Yoneyama and Dr. Hiroshi Matsumota of Japan and Dr. Raj Prasad of Canada.

Many of the graduate student awardees were from the member nations of APWSS. The graduate student awards covered registration fees, accommodation, and part of the travel expenses. The awardees were selected by a committee headed by Dr. Per Kudsk of Denmark. Many of the participants were attending the conference for the first time indicating that Weed Science continues to attract new and younger talents.

The venue of next IWSC has been decided as China, in 2012.

The following brief perspective on the IWSS Conference was provided by Bill Chisholm, highlighting aspects of interest on aquatic weed control.

A Brief Perspective on 5th International Weed Science Congress; held in Vancouver, Canada. June 23-27, 2008

Submitted by Bill Chisholm, Aquatic Weed Control Ltd,

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E-mail: bill@chisholm.co.nz

Bill Chisholm

The International Weeds Sciences Society meets every four years. This year their conference was held in Vancouver, Canada, in association with the Weed Science Society of America, the Canadian Weed Science Society and the European Weed Research Society. Over 400 delegates from ~ 40 countries were present.

The Congress included contributed papers and posters, covering an extensive range of weed research avenues. Of particular interest was the nearly 400 poster papers, all of a very high standard, which revealed the wide extent to which weed research is undertaken on a worldwide basis.

A highlight of the conference was the incorporation of poster discussions into each session, which allowed for detailed exploration of the research behind them.

There was a strong emphasis on environmental aspects of weed management, including a spotlight on global weeds, spread and management of invasive species, weeds in organic farms and a session on regulatory aspects of weed control. These papers provided a good insight into the extent to which weed control must work within strict environmental controls imposed by regulatory authorities.

Of particular interest was a full morning session on aquatic weeds. The extent of the problem worldwide is surprising. It would appear that almost every country in the world has made (and continues to make) the same mistakes when trying to deal with aquatic weeds. International conferences such as this are the only chance that aquatic weed researchers and managers can get together to swap ideas.

There is a great deal of research into new aquatic weed control herbicides. Leading this research is the US Army Corps of Engineers, who have done many field and laboratory studies on aquatic weeds in the USA, especially *Hydrilla* and water hyacinth. It was interesting to note that most aquatic weed control managers in the USA are not averse to using herbicides for aquatic weed control.

New research into systemic herbicides for aquatic weed control, such as ALS inhibitors, was particularly interesting, as it brings with it the possibility of eradicating new weed outbreaks if they can be treated quickly. A follow up conference on aquatic weed control is being planned for Helsinki in July 2009. Further details will be provided as they come to hand.

'Weeds Across Borders' in North America Conference held in May 2008

Dr. Raj Prasad (retired scientist, Pacific Forestry Centre, Victoria, BC, Canada) sent the following brief Report on 'Weeds Across Borders' in North America, a recently held Conference (27-30 May 2008) at the scenic Banff, Alberta, Canada.

Dr. Prasad presented a paper entitled "Ecology, Biology and Control of Exotic-Invasive Weeds in Forestry-management of gorse (***Ulex europaeus* L**) on federal lands in Victoria, BC".

About 175 people mostly from USA, Canada and Mexico and few others from other countries, participated and discussed the various aspects of weeds and unwanted plants crossing borders, hitchhiking on trucks, cars or other vehicles or by other modes and causing problems to the native vegetation. '

Weeds Across Border' (WAB) is an international conference held every two years between these three countries on the North American continent, covering the interests of professionals and organizations involved in weed management and regulation.

Because weeds do not obey human imposed laws or boundaries, the three countries are attempting to develop partnerships, share information, coordinate programs and projects that cross these boundaries.

Photo showing Dr. Raj Prasad (centre-seated) and other participants during the field excursion at the WAB Conference

Photo showing Dr. Raj Prasad at the WAB Conference

The goal of the WAB Conference is to provide a forum for educating, sharing, and disseminating knowledge about weed management, regulatory issues, and concerns about weed dispersal across and between all jurisdictional boundaries in Mexico, Canada and United States.

The conference held eight Sessions (Status Reports; Cooperation and Partnerships; Applied Research Reports; New Issues; Early Detection and Rapid Response; Best Management Tools; Economic and Ecological Concerns; Public Policy and Awareness).

Participants took part in a Field Tour; as shown in the photographs.

The Proceedings, edited by Stephen Darbyshire and Raj Prasad will be published soon; each paper has an abstract in English and Spanish.

If anyone is interested in this, please contact Dr. Raj Prasad at **rprasad@pfc.forestry.ca**.

British Crop Protection Council (BCPC) scraps historic, global meeting

The British Crop Production Council (formerly British Crop Protection Council) recently shocked the global crop protection universe with a terse message advising that it was canceling its historic annual Congress in November 2008 and henceforth.

The abrupt action was said to be triggered by eroded income initially stemming from drastically reduced meeting participation in 2001, plus "other" factors related to funding and liabilities, which, according to BCPC, show no hope of reversing.

The highly regarded event, for years widely known as the "**Brighton Conference**", was characterized by M. Redbond, editor of CROP PROTECTION MONTHLY, as the "centerpiece of the UK crop protection year," and a meeting that apparently had of late "rather lost its way".

The congress cessation announcement, however, indicated that although BCPC's commercial arm has been placed in receivership, the BCPC publications program would continue for the time being, as will its newer electronic news service, BCPC News (mailto:**news@bcpc.org**).

Dr. P.C. Jepson, currently Director of the Integrated Plant Protection Center at Oregon State Univ. (USA), attended each of the annual BCPC events 1981-1995 and reflects on the experience in the following commentary.

"The British Crop Protection Council annual meetings began an unbroken run in 1976, alternating between weeds one year and pests and diseases the next, until the decision was taken to cancel the 2008 meeting. Predating this by over 20 years, however, the less regular meetings of the British Weed Control Council, and the British Insecticide and Fungicide Council chronicled the development of the pest control industry and the increasing reliance on chemicals that characterized pest control in the second half of the 20th century.

"The famous bound conference proceedings reveal the deep scholarship and understanding of basic pest biology in both industry and academic institutes that supported many of the new developments in chemical management in the 1950's and 1960's. In later editions, it is possible to track the rising confidence and dominance of the chemical industry in the 1970's and 1980's that, in hindsight, was accompanied by a loss of scholarly depth and inquiry and an intensification of marketing and opportunistic growth.

"IPM emerged as the dominant crop protection paradigm through this period, and proceedings in the 1990's, up to last year, reflect, in my view, the challenges faced by a discipline that had lost contact with its roots in basic understanding of pest biology and had become preoccupied with environmental impact and the challenges of defining and delivering sustainability.

"Just at the point where a food crisis is looming, the meeting that annually defined, in an honest and open way, both the best and worst that the chemical industry can offer the world of crop protection and IPM, a hiatus has occurred. As someone who gave his first talk in the terrifying 10 minute talk sessions of the BCPC meeting in 1981, I hope that the BCPC is able to take off where it left the global pest control plot hanging in 2008, and continues to chronicle the struggle to manage pests."

P.C. Jepson, mailto:**JepsonP@science.oregonstate.edu**.

excerpted, with thanks, from **CROP PROTECTION MONTHLY**

News about Key Events

National Invasive Weed Surveillance (NIWS) programme launched in India (22 April 2008, Jabalpur)

On 22 April 2008, celebrating the 19th Foundation Day of the National Research Centre for Weed Science (NRCWS) at Jabalpur, India, a National Invasive Weed Surveillance (NIWS) programme has been launched.

The programme was ceremonially inaugurated by Dr. W.R. Reddy, Former Joint Secretary (Plant Protection), Department of Agriculture and Cooperation, Ministry of Agriculture, Government of India.

Dr. Jay G. Varshney, Director, NRCWS, Jabalpur; Dr. O. M. Bambawale, Director, National Centre for Integrated Pest Management (NCIPM), New Delhi; Dr. Ravi Prakash Joint Director, Department of Plant Protection, Quarantine and Storage (DPPQS), Faridabad also graced the occasion. In addition, Area coordinators of the NIWS centres from ten states as well as scientists from NRCWS also attended the launching ceremony.

Background:

To meet the food scarcity in the country, Government of India has permitted import of wheat with relaxed phytosanitary conditions so as to encourage participation of more number of countries in the bidding process in order to increase the competition and to bring down the prices for wheat import. Consequent upon this policy decision by the Government of India, 6.2 million tones of wheat was imported during the year 2006-07 by the Ministry of Food from various countries such as Australia, Russia, Canada, Ukraine, Hungary, France, Kazakhstan, Romania, Bulgaria, Netherlands, and Argentina. The import was mainly meant for Public Distribution System (PDS).

Dr. W.R. Reddy, Former Joint Secretary, (Plant Protection), Department of Agriculture and Cooperation, Ministry of Agriculture, Government of India delivering the inaugural address. Also seen in the photograph from L to R are: Dr. V. P. Singh, Senior Scientist and Convener of the programme; Dr. Jay G. Varshney, Director, NRCWS, Jabalpur and National Coordinator, National Invasive Weed Surveillance Programme, and Dr. O. M. Bambawale, Director, NCIPM, New Delhi.

During the import, large numbers of seeds of five regulated weed species, viz., *Cenchrus tribuloides*, *Solanum carolinense*, *Viola arvensis*, *Cynoglossum officinale* and *Ambrosia trifida* have been intercepted by the Plant Quarantine Officials.

To assess the full potential of likely risk due to the introduction of these quarantine weeds, it is necessary to conduct regular surveys for weed detection, monitoring and their surveillance.

Accordingly, a National Invasive Weed Surveillance (NIWS) programme was sanctioned by the Department of Agriculture and Cooperation, Ministry of Agriculture, Government of India, New Delhi with a budget support of Rs. 666.45 lakhs for a period of two years (2008-10), with the following objectives:

- To conduct effective survey and monitoring for the early detection of regulated weeds viz., *Cenchrus tribuloides*, *Solanum carolinense*, *Viola arvensis*, *Cynoglossum officinale* and *Ambrosia trifida* that have been intercepted in wheat imported during 2006-07.
- To create public awareness through campaign on the weeds and their quarantine status, control/containment and eradication.
- To initiate containment and eradication programme for these weeds.
- To strengthen national and regional capacity in invasive weed taxonomic identification and management.
- To enhance preparedness to respond to exotic weed invasion.

Implementation Authority & Area to be covered:

National Research Centre for Weed Science (NRCWS), Jabalpur is the implementation authority at National level in joint collaboration with the State Agricultural Universities and some general universities in Gujarat, Maharashtra, Karnataka, Kerala, Tamil Nadu, Andhra Pradesh, Orissa, West Bengal, Madhya Pradesh and Chattisgarh. The imported wheat has been distributed under PDS in these States.

- The NIWS will cover 267 districts in these ten states.
- The survey and surveillance work at the field level will be carried out by Surveillance Inspectors who will be recruited at district level.
- In addition to detecting the establishment of any regulated weed, the project is also expected to result in the development of a comprehensive database as well as monitoring protocols for early detection and weed risk assessment which would be of immense help in dealing with import and export of various food and seed materials in future.

News from Members and Countries

News from Australia

The following information was provided by Dr Aik Cheam (**acheam@agric.wa.gov.au**).

Australian farmers spent $ 1,574 million (AUD) controlling weeds

The management of weeds was the major activity for Australian farmers during the 2006-07 financial year, according to figures released by the Australian Bureau of Statistics.

Farmers spent $1,574 million controlling weeds in contrast to $768 million on pests and $649 million on land and soil problems. Of all expenditure on weed management, nearly two thirds ($982) was spent on herbicides.

For more information on the above findings, see:
http://www.abs.gov.au/AUSSTATS/abs%40.nsf/mediareleasesbyCatalogue/9AD56EEE6BD201D7CA2574720012D506?OpenDocument

A new national weed research centre for Australia

Australian weed scientists have welcomed the news that the government will provide $15 million (AUD) over four years for a new national weed research centre. This centre will continue the work of the axed Cooperative Research Centre for Australian Weed Management (Weeds CRC).

Despite the termination of the Weeds CRC, its website and all its resources will remain online for up to two years after the CRC's closure which is expected to take place at the end of December. As of 30 June 2008 you can view the Weeds CRC website at **www.weedscrc.org.au**.

For those wanting to know more about the Weeds CRC and its contributions to Australian agriculture and its natural environment, looking up the website is a must.

News from India

Editor's Note:

I have taken the initiative to request APWSS Members to highlight the academic and non-academic institutions, which are involved in teaching, research, and dissemination of knowledge in Weed Science, within the Asia-Pacific Region, or indeed anywhere else, including Europe and America.

Although we live in the age of the Internet and 'googling', any information, I believe that highlighting some of the key Institutions will be of use to young weed scientists, who are seeking further weed science education and research placement opportunities.

R. K. Ghosh, Professor of Agronomy, from Bidhan Chandra Krishi Viswavidyalaya (BCKV), Mohanpur, India, sent the following Report, highlighting activities at his University and a recently held Conference.

BIDHAN CHANDRA KRISHI VISWAVIDYALAYA

MOHANPUR- 741252, NADIA, WEST BENGAL, INDIA

(Website: bckv.edu.in)

The University has three teaching Faculties: (1) Agriculture (17 Departments), (2) Horticulture (5 Departments) and (3) Agricultural Engineering (4 Departments).

In addition, it hosts the following:

- Directorate of Research – One centre in each six zones of West Bengal (NAZ, OAZ, RLZ, CSZ, TZ & HZ)
- Directorate of Farms- Covering 1340.58 acre area
- Directorate of Extension Education
- Central Library

The BCKV also has strong relationships, linkages and partnerships with:

- Indian Council of Agricultural Research (ICAR)
- Ministry of Agriculture- both Central and State
- Government, Corporate sectors
- A number of other Institutions, Industry and Farmers' Societies

Two photographs showing Bidhan Chandra Krishi Viswavidyalaya, Mohanpur, West Bengal, India

The **Crop and Weed Science Society** (Website:**cwssbckv.org.in**) is also hosted at the University.

The main functions of the CWSS are listed as:

- To publish biannual Journal of Crop and Weed , Annual Crop and Weed Science News
- To organize International and National Seminars, Conferences, Training Programmes

From 2002-to date, the Society has organized one International and one National Conference; three Seminars/Conferences; and eleven Training Programmes on important agricultural aspects

Dr. R. K. Ghosh was the main organizer of all these functions, as Secretary, CWSS and.

Biennial Conference of the Crop and Weed Science Society, 21-22 May 2008

Biennial Conference of the Crop and Weed Science Society (CWSS), BCKV and Two Days Training Programme on, "Best Management Practices of Agricultural Inputs" at FTC (Lake Hall), Kalyani, BCKV was held on 21st and 22nd May, 2008.

In this Programme Prof. S. Sankaran, Former Vice Chancellor, TNAU as Chief Guest, Prof. J. G. Larceny, Director, NRCWS, ICAR as Guest of Honour, Dr. R. K. Samantha, Vice Chancellor, BCKV, Prof. S. K.Sanyal, Director of Research, BCKV, Prof. S. K. T. Nasar, Former Director of Research, BCKV, Dr. S. K. Brahmachari,

Former Vice Chancellor, UBKV and many distinguished Scientists, research students and Corporate personnel's from Mumbai, Bangalore, New Delhi, Kolkata and other different parts of India were present in addition to the farmers of this region.

Prof. C. T. Abraham, Kerala, delivered a presentation on advances in weed management of aquatic weeds and Prof. R. K. Ghosh, West Bengal, lectured on Weed Management in field and plantation crops, as part of the training programme.

More information on any item above can be obtained by contacting Dr. Ghosh (**rkgbckv @rediffmail.com**)

News from Thailand

The following news item from Thailand was submitted by Siriporn Zungsontiporn (**zungss@doa.go.th** or **siripornz@gmail.com**) of the Plant Protection Research & Development Office, Department of Agriculture, Thailand.

Thailand's Plant Protection Research & Development Office recently conducted a training course- "Training for Trainer", which aimed to educate and give information for effective techniques in weed management to farmers via these participants from various provinces.

Forty-nine participants (see Photo overleaf), from Regional Agricultural Research Centres, and agricultural colleges of each province and others from pesticide companies, participated.

The training covered weed biology, invasive alien plant as weeds in Thailand, allelopathy for weed control, weedy rice and management, weed management in vegetables, rice, medicinal herbs, rubber, oil palm and upland crops. The training was conducted in Thai language.

News from Pakistan

The following news item was provided by Gul Hassan, Secretary, APWSS, from Pakistan

International Linkage Project on Parthenium Sanctioned

The Higher Education Commission of Pakistan Islamabad has sanctioned a joint project on Parthenium comprising the research teams from NWFP Agricultural University Peshawar, University of the Punjab, Lahore Pakistan and the University of Queensland, Australia. Professors Gul Hassan, Rukhsan Bajwa and Khan Bahadar Marwat are the major players in the project from Pakistan, whereas Dr. Steve Adkins leads from the University of Queensland.

The objectives of the project are to minimize losses from the Parthenium weed, which is rapidly spreading in Pakistan.

News about Forthcoming Conferences

10-13 September 2008	The **First International Ragweed Conference** is to be held in Budapest, Hungary. Conference details are at: **http://www.nki.hu/ragweed/index.html**
21-25 September 2008	**5th World Congress on Allelopathy.** The International Allelopathy Society will hold its triennial congress in Saratoga Springs, NY. For further information go to the website (**www.iascongress5.org**).
19 November 2008	**Conference/Workshop, The Future of Weed Research in the U.K.** Contact: C. Millman, AAB, c/o Warwick HRI, Wellesbourne, Warwick CV35 9EF, UK. For further information- Mailto:Carol@aab.org.uk. Fax: 44-0-1789-470234. Phone: 44-0-1789-472020; **Http://tinyurl.com/6rngfn**.
9-12 February 2009	**Weed Science Society of America and Southern Weed Science Society Annual Meeting and Conference.** To be held at Hilton Walt Disney Resort, Orlando, Florida. The deadline for submission of Abstracts is 2 October 2008; Additional information from: **http://www.wssa.net/Meetings/WSSAAnnual/Info.htm**
9-11 March 2009	**European Weed Research Society Workshop: Physical And Cultural Weed Control**. To be held at: Zaragoza, Spain on the Campus of Aula Dei. Full information at: **http://www.ewrs.org/pwc/**
26-29 July 2009	**10th Queensland Weeds Symposium** To be held at Rydges Capricorn, Yeppoon. For more information, contact the chair of the organising committee, Trudy Baker, or look for future updates on the WSQ website: **www.wsq.org.au**

Other 'Weedy' News

Graham Prichard **(**Graham.Prichard@portstephens.nsw.gov.au), Noxious Weeds Officer from Port Stephens Council, NSW, Australia, sent the following news item, highlighting a weed that is causing concern in the area.

No Shrinking Violet

Funding from Federal and State governments is used by Port Stephens Council (coastal New South Wales) to co-ordinate a project to eradicate Chinese Violet (*Asystasia gangetica* subspecies *micrantha,* family ACANTHACEAE) from the region.

A project Officer has been appointed to identify outbreaks, map and treat infestations, develop community awareness and education programs, and coordinate landholders involved in the eradication project.

Chinese Violet (also known as Creeping Foxglove) is a rapidly growing perennial herb that usually forms a dense groundcover, but can grow over shrubs up to 4 m tall. It was first recorded as naturalised in Australia at Boat Harbour in Port Stephens LCA, in 1999.

Chinese Violet belongs to a group of species and subspecies that show some variability in form. The *Asystasia gangetica* subspecies *micrantha* form is the subject of this project and is considered one of the more weedy forms of the group (Ismail & Shukor 1998).

Chinese Violet is a Class 1 notifiable noxious plant throughout New South Wales and has been included in the *Key Threatening Process* (Invasion and establishment of exotic vines and scramblers) under the NSW Threatened Species Act 1995. In addition, it is included in the Australian Federal Government's Alert List for Environmental Weeds.

A weed risk assessment completed by the Australian Bureau of Rural Sciences found that 1,773,433 km^2 of agricultural lands with revenue estimated at AU$ 5,618 million was potentially at risk (Cunningham et al 2003).

If it became established in Australia, Chinese Violet could potentially affect crops such as soybeans, vegetables, cut flowers and oil-tea tree. Its success over a wide geographical range is due to its rapid growth rate, competitive habit, early flowering and high seed production.

Flower and seed pods of Chinese Violet

As an environmental weed, it could have similarly significant effects, smothering native vegetation and destroying the habitat of many birds and animals.

It has shown a tolerance to a range of subtropical and tropical climates, and could be suited to a large part of Australia's environment.

Trials to determine the most effective herbicides have been completed and the herbicides in combination with hand weeding are now being used very successfully. The project officer has mapped all known infestations and is monitoring control works to ensure plants are effectively controlled.

Further information can be found at: **www.portstephens.local-e.nsw.gov.au/environment**.

Graham Prichard is interested to learn from persons with experience in managing this weed and is particularly interested in the length of time seeds remain viable and how seeds may be dispersed.

Photo showing a dense infestation adjacent to a bushland

References

- Ismail, S.I.; Shukor, A.J. (1998). Effects of water stress, shading and clipping on growth and development of *Asystasia gangetica*. Plant Protection Quarterly 13: 140-142.
- Cunningham, D.C., Woldendorp, G., Burgess, M.B. and Barry, S.C. (2003) 'Prioritising sleeper weeds for eradication: Selection of species based on potential impacts on agriculture and feasibility of eradication.' Bureau of Rural Sciences, Canberra.

Additive Improves Aquatic Weed Management

A newer additive, specifically formulated for use with aquatic herbicides is said to be capable of reducing herbicide amounts used for managing submerged aquatic weeds by up to 80 % compared to conventional application techniques.

The product, Hydrogel, binds with the aquatic herbicide diquat dibromide (Reglone), and, because it is heavier than water, sinks below the water surface to then attach the herbicide- carrier mix to submerged aquatic plant surfaces.

The process, using a non-volatile, non-systemic, direct contact herbicide, greatly reduces drift and risk of unwanted environmental impact. The active ingredient is deactivated shortly after application making the herbicide-carrier combination ideal for controlling invasive plants in slow moving waterways or impounded water bodies, says the manufacturer.

This information was sent by Peter Harper, Hydrogel Australia, 33 Lagonda Dr., Ingleburn, NSW 2565, AUSTRALIA. Those requiring additional information should contact Peter Harper directly on: **Peter@bettersafe.com.au**. Fax: 61-960-59414; **Http://www.hydrogel.com.au**.

New E-Newsletter Features Invasive Plant Management

Montana State University's Center for Invasive Plant Management (CIPM) has begun publishing a bi-monthly electronic newsletter highlighting the Center's activities, as well as other weed and invasive plant management information.

At **http://www.weedcenter.org** click on "e-newsletter" to gain access or launch a free subscription.

CIPM, Montana State Univ., PO Box 173120, Bozeman, MT 59717, USA.

For additional information, CIPM could be contacted directly:**weedcenter@montana.edu**.

Editor's Column

Dear APWSS Members

This is a delayed Newsletter, because information of some quality and interest to a wider audience was not available to me when I began compiling the material in June-July. Although I still receive positive feedback from many, perhaps Members are already inundated with information from other sources.

Several Country Representatives and individual members have made significant contributions to this **Issue 3 (August 2008)**; I am thankful to them, and am hopeful that this trend will continue.

I encourage Country Representatives to provide news and updates from their respective Weed Societies and activities. I also welcome ideas on what might be of interest to a broader membership and suggestions to improve the quality of the Newsletter.

As Newsletter Editor, I am again making a general request to Members and our partner Industry to participate more in sharing of information.

I have no information yet to provide on the next APWSS Conference, to be held in Pakistan. Many Members have already made inquiries, but we will have to await this information. The APWSS Organizing Team in Pakistan is likely to provide information soon.

The next Newsletter will be in January 2009. I am therefore requesting that all contributions to the next Newsletter and any other feedback on the current Issue be sent over the next 2-3 months.

Also, kindly distribute the Newsletter as widely as possible, so that we promote collaboration among Weed Scientists particularly in the Asia-Pacific Region, and also amongst our Industry Partners.

Thank you

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