REPORT

8TH CONFERENCE OF THE EUROPEAN FOUNDATION FOR PLANT PATHOLOGY & BRITISH SOCIETY FOR PLANT PATHOLOGY PRESIDENTIAL MEETING 2006 "SUSTAINABLE DISEASE MANAGEMENT: THE EUROPEAN PERSPECTIVE" COPENHAGEN 13–17.08.2006

The Conference was organized by the Danish Society for Plant Diseases and Pests on behalf of the EFPP, and the British Society for Plant Pathology, and held at KVL (The Royal Veterinary and Agricultural University) in Copenhagen.

It was attended by 205 scientists from 27 countries from Europe and overseas (Austria 2, Bangladesh 1, Belgium 1, Canada 2, China 2, Czech Republic 24, Denmark 53, Estonia 2, Finland 2, France 5, Germany 5, Hungary 1, India 3, Ireland 1, Israel 2, Italy 11, Latvia 2, The Netherlands 12, Norway 5, Poland 4, Portugal 1, Slovakia 1, Spain 2, Sweden 12, Switzerland 2, Uganda 1 and United Kingdom 46). The Polish group (Photo 1) consisted of Prof. Małgorzata Mańka, Prof. Henryk Pospieszny, Dr. Grzegorz Lemańczyk and Joanna Przysowa M.Sc. (not to mention Dr. Aleksandra Adomas representing Swedish University of Agricultural Sciences, Uppsala, Sweden and Kamila Koropacka M.Sc. representing Wageningen University, The Netherlands).

The British Society for Plant Pathology Presidential Meeting 2006 started with a Garrett Memorial Lecture at the opening plenary session. It was delivered by Prof. Lene Lange from Novozymes (Denmark) who focused on "The future role of plant pathology – how science can contribute to making a better world?". She was of opinion that nowadays, in the "post genomic era", plant pathology should go back to biology and "use genome sequence information and molecular biological tools to study interaction". According to Prof. Lange, in the future the so called Red Biotech (biotechnology in medicine) will cease as compared with White Biotech (biotechnology in other biology fields, incl. agriculture).

President of the EFPP, Dr. Lisa Munk, started her opening lecture with a quotation from "Principles of plant pathology" by E.C. Stakman and J.G. Harrar (1957): "The health of plants is vital to society and human progress".

The majority of key-note lectures that followed covered two fields problems:

1) research on specific plant–pathogen models and ways of plant disease control that could face the high demands of contemporary consumers and

2) transmission of research results into agricultural practice.

The author's attention was drawn to some lectures in particular.

Dr. John Hockenhull (KVL, Denmark) presented options for managing scab in organic apple production after copper-fungicides are no longer available, according

Phot. 1. Polish group at the Copenhagen Conference – from left: Dr. G. Lemańczyk (photo by M. Mańka), Dr. A. Adomas, K. Koropacka M.Sc., J. Przysowa M.Sc. and Prof. M. Mańka (photo by G. Lemańczyk), Prof. H. Pospieszny (photo by M. Mańka)

to REPCO approaches (REPCO stands for "Replacement of Copper Fungicides in Organic Production of Grapevine and Apple in Europe") – a matter of great importance in contemporary organic fruit production, mentioned and discussed also at the International Conference "Biological and pro-ecological methods for control of diseases in orchards and small fruit plantations" held in Skierniewice, Poland, August 29–31, 2005.

Phot. 2. Soil sensor *Trichoderma* LFD by Eco Diagnostics Ltd. (photo by M. Mańka)

An interesting device for tracing *Trichoderma* spp. and *Rhizoctonia solani* in soil, based on molecular analysis of water soil suspension, was presented by its author Christopher R. Thornton (University of Exeter, UK). A fairly small label (similar to a field pehameter), giving answer in several minutes, is available on the market now (Photo 2).

Dr. Lise Nistrup Jørgensen (Danish Institute of Agricultural Sciences) presented a lecture on "What information do farmers need to optimize disease control in cereals?", claiming that no simple answer to the question was to be given. The conclusion was that recommendations should be simple, and it is worth going for the next best solution if you reach more users.

Post-conference tour included a visit to the Danish Institute of Agricultural

Sciences, Slagelse, the Viking Ship Museum and Roskilde Cathedral (UNESCO listed). The Institute, among other research activities, takes part in the grant on *Phytophthora infestans* in potato, presented earlier by Dr. Piet M. Boonekamp (Plant Research International, The Netherlands) as "Towards integrated control of *Phytophthora infestans* in potato: results of the Dutch Umbrella Plan". In the field, for small scale field experiments on the disease control, a very sophisticated device is applied there: a computer-driven little tractor for fungicide treatment of small plots, able to distribute automatically up to six different fungicides on plots, according to a schedule (Photo 3).

The Conference year – 2006 – was only two years before the International Plant Pathology Congress 2008 in Turin (Italy) and that is why the Board of the EFPP decided not to organize the next conference earlier than in 2010. At the biannual meeting of the EFPP Board the new Executive Committee for 2006–2010 was elected:

President – Prof. Maria Ivone Clara, University of Evora, Portugal (President of the Portuguese Society for Plant Pathology),
Vice-president: Dr. Lisa Munk (Danish Society for Plant Diseases and Pests),
General Secretary – Dr. Piet M. Boonekamp (Royal Netherlands Society for Plant Pathology),
Treasurer – Dr. Arne Hermansen (Norwegian Society for Plant Pathology).

Programme Secretary will be appointed later by the Portuguese Society for Plant Pathology.

Phot. 3. A computer-driven tractor for fungicide treatment of small plots: a – computer, b – six containers for pesticides (photo by M. Mańka)

The 9th EFPP Conference will be hosted by the Portuguese Society for Plant Pathology (Sociedade Portuguesa de Fitopatologia, SPF) and held in 2010 in Evora, Portugal. This will be followed by the 10th EFPP Conference in 2012 in Wageningen, The Netherlands, and by the 11th EFPP Conference 2014 in Cracow, Poland (20 yrs after the 4th EFPP Conference in Poznań, Poland).

Colleagues from several countries (potential member societies) of central and eastern Europe participated in the EFPP Board meeting. Despite the fact that the societies were willing to join the EFPP, they have not been able to do it so far, due to formal and economical reasons.

Professor B.M. Cooke, Editor-in-Chief of *European Journal of Plant Pathology*, reported on publishing activities and encouraged EFPP members to subscribe for the EJPP. The subscription for individual members, if mediated by their societies, results in yearly price reduced several times (information available from the publisher: Springer Netherlands).

Małgorzata Mańka