

# OIP News and Views

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## News from the Consultative Group on International Agricultural Research (CGIAR)

On August, 1, 2003, **Emile Frison** became the director general of CGIAR's International Plant Genetic Resources Institute (IPGRI) in Rome. A citizen of Belgium and a plant pathologist (M.S. degree, Catholic University of Louvain; Ph.D. degree, University of Gembloux), Frison was the director of IPGRI's International Network for the Improvement of Banana and Plantain (INIBAP) from 1995 until his recent appointment. He joined IPGRI in 1987, coordinating phytosanitation research related to the international dissemination of plant germplasm, and became the IPGRI Regional Director for Europe in 1992. OIP wishes Emile all the best in his new position.

At its annual meeting in Nairobi in October 2003, CGIAR presented its award for Outstanding Scientific Article to APS member **Kitty Cardwell** and her coauthors on a paper titled, "Dietary Aflatoxin Exposure and Impaired Growth in Young Children from Benin and Togo." The study, published in the *British Medical Journal* (vol. 325, 2002), revealed an association between exposure to aflatoxin in children and standard indicators of malnutrition.

## Paul Harris Fellowship

**Kitty Cardwell** has donated the \$1,000 she received with her 2003 APS International Service Award to Rotary International's Paul Harris Fellowship. Her donation was made in the name of **Anne Niederhauser**, the late wife of **John Niederhauser**.

## 1st Mycosphaerella Genomics Consortium Workshop

On August 18–20, 2003, researchers from Brazil, Cuba, France, Mexico, the Netherlands, Switzerland, and the United States met in Merida, Mexico, to form a consortium on *Mycosphaerella* genomics. Collaborative relationships were forged among researchers on *M. fijiensis*, cause of the most important disease of banana worldwide (known as either black Sigatoka or black leaf streak disease), and *M. graminicola*, which causes a major disease of wheat (Septoria blotch), in the belief that mutually beneficial synergies will result for those who work on this important genus. APS members **Alice Churchill**, **Stephen Goodwin**, **Gert Kema**, **Marc-Henri Lebrun**, and **Bruce McDonald**, as well as **Jean Carlier**, **Marie Dufresne**, **Andrew James**, **Elio Jimenez**, **Nicolas Roux**, and **Manoel Souza** participated in the workshop. The meeting was hosted by Andrew James and members of his laboratory at the CICY research facility in Merida in cooperation with INIBAP. Contact Alice Churchill (acc7@cornell.edu) for details.

## OIP Library Assistance Program

Those of you who have worked in a country in the developing world are aware of the critical needs that confront agricultural research libraries in these areas. With limited means of support, many of these libraries have poor, out-of-date collections of literature and scant additional resources that could help local agricultural scientists.

With these libraries in mind, the Library Assistance Program was established during the late 1970s. Chaired first by **Hugh Sissler**, **Lawrence Datnoff**, and **Art Lamey**, **Bill Brown** handled the responsibility once it became an OIP program. The program is now led by **Mohammad Babadoost** and assists libraries and institutions in developing countries by providing books, journals, CDs, slides, and other resources.

Babadoost asks that you contact him if you have materials to donate, if you know of libraries that need assistance, or if you could help defray the costs of shipping materials to these libraries. He can be reached at: University of Illinois, N-533A Turner Hall, Crop Sciences Department, 1102 S Goodwin Ave., Urbana, IL 61801-4798 USA; Phone: +1.217.333.1523; Fax: +1.217.333.1289; E-mail: babadoos@uiuc.edu

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