



The third International Phytoplasma Working Group (IPWG) Meeting was held at the Intercontinental Hotel Mauritius Resort Balaclava Fort from January 14 to January 17 as planned. The Meeting was attended by 60 participants from the 25 different Countries namely: Brazil, Canada, Chile, Côte d'Ivoire, France, Germany, Ghana, India, Iran, Israel, Italy, Kenya, Mauritius, Mexico, Mozambique, Pakistan, Poland, Saudi Arabia, Slovenia, South Africa, Spain, Switzerland, Taiwan, Turkey and USA.

The Meeting was opened by a welcome presented by FAREI Ag. CEO Mr. Ramesh Rajcumar and also colleagues from FAREI Mr. Shamduth Beni Madhu and Mr. Vivian Vally.

The scientific program comprised poster and oral presentations.

The introductory lecture entitled "Phytoplasma research between past and future: which directions?" was given by prof. Assunta Bertaccini.

The 7 topics treated in the Meeting were presented in 9 sessions as oral presentations for which the time was assigned by the scientific committee of the Meeting.

The topic treated were: I. Phytoplasma genomic. II. Phytoplasma detection and characterisation. III. Insect vectors of phytoplasmas and phytoplasmas-vector interaction. IV. Phytoplasma diseases worldwide. V. New phytoplasma diseases. VI. Mixed infection of phytoplasma and other pathogens and VII. Phytoplasma-plant interaction and control of phytoplasma diseases. Session II, V and VII were presented in two separate session due to high number of oral presentation as shown in the table below:

<b>Session</b>	<b>Number of presentations</b>	<b>Chairpersons</b>
Phytoplasma genomic	4	A. Bertaccini – Italy E. Ndede Yankey - Ghana
Phytoplasma detection and characterisation I	5	M. Dermastia – Slovenia G.P. Rao - India
Phytoplasma detection and characterisation II	5	H.G. Montano – Brazil J. Burger – South Africa
Insect vectors of phytoplasmas and phytoplasmas-vector interaction	6	P. Weintraub – Israel N. Mori – Italy
Phytoplasma diseases worldwide I	4	A. Lavina – Spain J. Nazeer Ahmad - Pakistan
Phytoplasma diseases worldwide II	7	A. Schilder – USA K. Alhudaib – Saudi Arabia
New phytoplasma diseases	6	S.S. Lin – Taiwan E. de Oliveira - Brazil
Mixed infection of phytoplasma and other pathogens	5	F. Ertunc – Turkey F. Pilet – France
Phytoplasma-plant interaction and control of phytoplasma diseases I	7	M. Cieslinska – Poland B. Schneider – Germany
Phytoplasma-plant interaction and control of phytoplasma diseases II	5	Y. Arocha Rosete – Canada N. Fiore - Chile

Two round tables were also carried out on the following specific topics relevant to the phytoplasma field:

Phytoplasma quarantine and taxonomy: moving forward?

Presented by: Assunta Bertaccini (Italy); Nicola Fiore (Chile); Helena Guglielmi Montano (Brazil) and Berd Schneider (Germany)

Fighting emerging palm diseases in Africa and the Americas.

Presented by: Yaima Arocha Rosete (Canada); Khalid Alhudaib (Saudi Arabia), Joao Bila (Mozambique); Fabian Pilet (France) and Egya Ndede Yankey (Ghana).

The overall number of presentations was 55. All the presented works are published as extended abstract in a Supplement issue of Phytopathogenic Mollicutes (Vol. 5 1-Supplement, January 2015; print ISSN: 2249-4669, online ISSN: 2249-4677) Indian Journal.com publisher, that was distributed to the participants at the Meeting and that is now also free available on line at the web page:

<http://www.ipwgnet.org/researchnews>.

The issue is dedicated to the prof. Karl Maramorosch who on January 16<sup>th</sup> celebrated his 100<sup>th</sup> Birthday and who is the scientific inspirer of the working group. Professor Maramorosch was unfortunately not able to attend the Meeting due to the long distance travel. It should be also mentioned that the Meeting was also somewhat affected by cyclone Bansi, with some of the scientists arriving late due to delayed or rescheduled flights or a few cancelling their participation.

The Meeting scientific committee members who revised the Mauritius Meeting abstracts are: prof. Assunta Bertaccini (Italy), prof. Govind P. Rao (India); prof. Khalid Alhudaib (Saudi Arabia); Dr. Yaima Arocha Rosete (Canada); Prof. Matthew Dickinson (UK); prof. Xavier Foissac (France); Drs. Barbara and Wolfgang Jarausch (Germany); dr. Saskia Hogenhout (UK); dr. Ing Ming Lee (USA); dr. Lia Liefting (New Zealand); prof. Shigetou Namba (Japan); dr. Phyllis Weintraub (Israel).

Lunch and coffee breaks during the Meeting were dedicated to exchange of information about research from the different countries and on the Friday evening (January 16) a social dinner was organized at the Restaurant of Chateau Labourdonnais.

Besides the scientific presentations that updated the worldwide research in the field of phytoplasma, participants had the opportunity to discuss important matters such as international collaboration opportunities and possibility of shared collaborative research on phytoplasmas. Particular focus was put on possible methodology of phytoplasma isolation in order to be able to better perform biologic and resistance study that could help farmers and grower to avoid as much as possible the phytoplasma disease from spreading worldwide.

Proposals were also presented for the 4<sup>th</sup> IPWG Meeting organization to be held in 2019; Countries proposing to host the Meeting are: India, Malaysia, Canada and Chile. Final decision will be made by web consultation in one or two years time.

The Meeting was very fruitful as both science update and exchange of scientific experience carried out in various agricultural environments. It confirmed that phytoplasma diseases awareness is increasing worldwide with also increasing the number of participants from new country attending this Meeting for the first time such as Côte d'Ivoire, Ghana, Kenya, Mozambique, Pakistan, Switzerland and Taiwan. The work of colleagues from China and Vietnam were presented even though they were unable to attend to the Meeting due to travelling and/or visa problems.

Pictures of Meeting below:



January 15, 2015 – Intercontinental Hotel Mauritius Resort, Balaclava



January 16, evening at the Chateau Labourdonnais

Acknowledgements:

The scientific committee acknowledge assistance obtained from MRC, Mauritius and FAREI, CEO, Mauritius.

Professor A. Bertaccini  
January 2015