

CSA Newsletter

Canadian Society of Agronomy

November 2015



PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Agronomists could be required to work under increasing complexities!

My Greetings and Thanks to the fellow CSA members for considering me capable to be a President of CSA, especially to two Past Presidents, Yousef Papadopoulos and Shabtai Bitman, for nominating me as President Elect in 2014. I have a challenge to equal all Past Presidents who had performed exceptionally well. I am fortunate to have a very capable and cohesive team in the CSA Executive and an experienced/and proactive Executive Director (Steve Sheppard). I believe I can also bank upon the consultations from the Past Presidents, if need be.

As Agronomists, we would always be challenged to work under increasing complexities and required to produce more from less (not only land, but also human resources and funds) to feed the ever increasing global population with shrinking land resources for food, feed, fibre, and energy production. The good news is that the number of hungry people in the world have come down from one billion to 795,000. We would be required to meet the changing food requirements and tastes from one generation to another, with increasing ethnic diversity, especially in Canada, health consciousness, proximity to food sources, etc.. Whenever my sons come to visit me the first thing they look in the fridge or kitchen is if there is any organic food. That is what they would prefer to eat. The global market for organic food was \$72 billion in 2013, and the area of organically managed farmland globally grew at a compound rate of 8.9% a year between 2001 and 2011.

However, it isn't easy to get higher production levels from organic farming as from the conventional farming. Higher food production and better food quality aren't easy to marry together. Pest control and meeting labour and nutrients requirements, particularly phosphorus, would remain a challenge under organic farming systems. Rational/and efficient use of resources under conventional farming systems would be required more and more to protect our production base including the physical environment (soil, water and air). Sustaining and improving production in the long term would still be required by using multiple production systems most suitable to the production environments.

Agronomists may also be required to work in multidisciplinary teams more than before. Food production, distribution and marketing under community supported agriculture (also abbreviated as CSA) will require Agronomists to have a social scientist's approach. In addition, they may be required to work more and more with Horticulturists because a sizeable portion of food in the CSA programs is comprised of vegetables and fruits. Another area where such an approach may be necessary is the urban agriculture, which at this stage is mostly at garden/or small scale within the cities/or near the cities. Such gardens are ideal for production and marketing of specialty food items. The scale and complexities of such operations is going to increase in the near future. For example, a recent news report indicated that a \$15 million urban agriculture centre is planned for Detroit.

In view of some such challenges, our society has joined hands with the Canadian Society of Horticultural Sciences to hold a joint Annual Conference at Montreal during July 24-26, 2016 with a theme of "Sustaining and increasing agricultural production under increasing complexities"! While thanking the Past CSA Executive, especially Brian Beres, for doing the job so well, I am looking forward to working with you all!

Tarlok Singh Sahota
President





Time to Renew

It is that time of year again – to renew your membership in CSA. The on-line CSA membership site for 2016 is now open and active. Tarlok and I did our renewals and we thought it was pretty easy. The on-line system is the best for CSA because the data gets transferred electronically (no transcription errors) and there is less cost than when we have to handle cheques and other paper. But if you prefer to renew on paper, that is OK too.

Go to www.agronomycanada.com and follow the membership pull down menu to renew on-line or to print off the paper form.

While you are renewing, we have posed a question to you about pricing for subscriptions to the Canadian Journal of Plant Science. As a member, you are eligible for a discount and your cost is \$50 (electronic copy only). However, if all members were required to subscribe, the cost would be \$25 per member. We think we know what the answer will be, but we decided should ask you whether you would prefer optional subscription at \$50 or mandatory subscription at \$25. Let us know!

Get your Students and Colleagues involved

Ask a student to join CSA.

CSA is now offering about \$5500 in travel and presentation awards for students, and to be eligible they just pay \$25 (up from last year) to join. Let them know! The odds of financial payback are pretty good. The odds of career payback are even better. Joining CSA is relevant for anyone interested in the science of agronomy, but especially for young researchers who need to establish a network of contacts.

And what about your colleagues? There are awards for established scientists too, but more importantly, they might well enjoy sharing in the work related to the Canadian Journal of Plant Science (editing and reviewing) and related to our annual technical meetings of the CSA. There are contacts to be made and things to add to the resume! Everyone can use more connectivity.

Change in our Awards Descriptions and Deadlines

Over the years, a few inconsistencies became embedded into the descriptions of our awards. We've redone all of them, although most of the changes are editorial, and the revised versions are on the web site. One specific change was the application deadlines, which are now set to April 15. That may seem early, but the idea is that we can make extensions on a year to year basis. When we have a meeting early in the summer, we need the applications by April 15. For 2016, our meeting is in July, so we may be able to do an extension – but aim for April 15 none the less!

Minutes from the CSA Annual General Meeting 2015

CSA Annual General Meeting

July 20th, 2015, at Botany 2015 in Edmonton, AB
26 members present

Welcome – Brian Beres to reside, Steve Sheppard to take minutes

Additions to Agenda. None arising.

Move to accept agenda by Pat Juskiw, second Ali Navabi, passed

Correction and approval of minutes from last meeting (Lethbridge AB)

Move to accept minutes by Sheri Strydhorst, second Mike Schellenberg, passed

CJPS Editor' report – Ali Navabi

2014 data not yet available, in 2013 there was a 50% rejection rate

36 countries led by Canada, China second

98 papers from government agencies, led by Lethbridge then Swift Current

58 paper from other agencies, led by University of Guelph then University of Saskatchewan

Impact factor from 0.54 in 2010 to 0.91 in 2014

Steve to obtain report from Ali and distribute to members

CSA needs to nominate 2 Associate Editors, one in organic farming and one crop physiology, 3 year term with chance of one renewal

Ali moved that Brian Beres be nominated by CSA for Editor, second Joseph Nyachiro, passed

Pat Juskiw thanked Ali for his work, Ali will finish as Editor with the last papers submitted in 2015

Treasurer's report and budget – Yvonne Lawley given by Steve Sheppard

Budget available to members in July newsletter and as a handout at the AGM

Deficits this year because of no conference income and one-time legal fees and web site rebuilding fees

Steve move to accept 2014 financial report and budget for 2015, second Yosef Papadopoulos, passed.

Steve move to reappoint Anita Drabek as financial reviewer for the CSA for the coming year, second by Pat Juskiw, passed.

President's report – Brian Beres.

Update on the dealings related to the sale of CJPS, including prospect of some income from the new publisher

Reasons for not renewing CSA membership in AIC were explained, including that CSA now has Officer's liability insurance independently from AIC

The retiring Executive members were named and thanked

We all need to help recruit members, it would be good if each member could bring in one or two new members.

Past President's Report – Derek Lynch, given by Brian Beres

Named the incoming Executive

Named Student Oral, Poster and Travel Award winners and gave cheques to those present

Named Distinguished and Fellow Awards and gave certificates to the Fellows (Distinguished certificate already given)

Named best Associate Editor and Best Reviewer awards and gave certificates

Gave cheque for Pest Management Award

Adjourn

Past-President's Message – Journal Update

I am pleased to report that Canadian Science Publishing (CSP) has acquired our society sponsored journal, The Canadian Journal of Plant Science. The complete details and copies of all pertinent documents were circulated to membership in early May. For the first time, CSA will now receive material benefits for committing to this sale and transfer by both the Agricultural Institute of Canada (AIC) and CSP through an agreement to continue the role of content development for CJPS; the nature of those benefits is primarily directed at enhancing our journal editors and our conference activities, the latter will focus largely on supporting student involvement. Renewal of the retiring demographic of agronomists is now recognized as an immediate challenge so fostering student recruitment and development into highly qualified personnel will become more and more imperative. As I mentioned in my President's Message in July, CSA Executive was also reviewing our relationship with AIC. With the acquisition of our journal by a new Publisher now complete and an opportunity to acquire director's liability insurance on our own instead of through AIC membership, which has increased to \$1500, the Executive decided not to renew membership with AIC.

*Brian L. Beres
Past-President*

2016 CSA/CSHS Joint Annual Conference

The joint annual conference for the
Canadian Society of Agronomy and the Canadian Society for Horticultural Science

will be held :

July 24-26, 2016
Montreal Quebec



The theme for the conference is:

**"Sustaining and improving agricultural production
under the increasing complexities"**

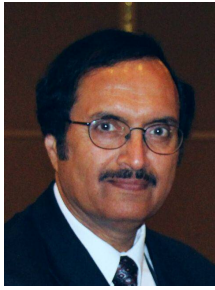
More information will be emailed to you as it becomes available.



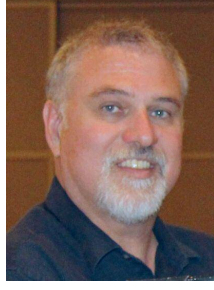
CSA Awards 2015



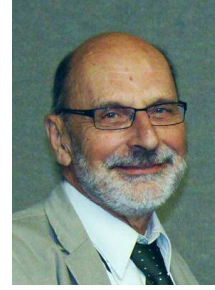
Cynthia Grant
Distinguished
Agronomist



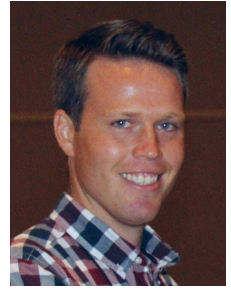
**Mahesh
Updahaya**
Fellow



Elroy Cober
Fellow



Julian Thomas
(and Robert Graf)
Best Paper in CJPS
for 2014



Charles Geddes
CSA Pest
Management
Research Award

Plant Canada Travel Awards



Yunfei Jiang
University of Saskatchewan



Don Sanders
University of Manitoba.

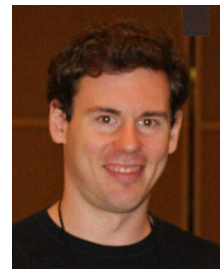
CSA Student Travel Awards



Gurcharn Brar



Charles Geddes



Dustin McLean

Oral Presentation Winners:



First:
Don Sanders
University of
Manitoba.
Supervisor:
Dr. Yvonne Lawley



Second:
Charles Geddes
University of
Manitoba
Supervisor:
Dr. Rob Gulden



Third:
Laurel Perrott
University of
Alberta.
Supervisors:
Sheri Strydhorst and
Linda Hall

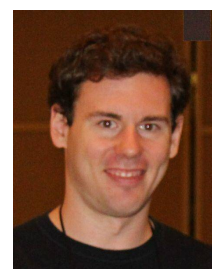
Poster Presentation Winners:



First: **Dhanuja
Neranjalee
Abeyasingha
Gnegama
Lekamge.**
University of
Alberta.
Supervisor:
Dr. Jocelyn Ozga



Second:
Michelle Carkner
University of
Manitoba.
Supervisor:
Dr. Martin Entz



Third:
Dustin Maclean
University of
Saskatchewan
Supervisor:
Dr. Randy Kutcher

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Canadian Society of Agronomy

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