



CSA Newsletter

Canadian Society of Agronomy

October 2016



PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Fellow CSA members,

Earlier this past summer, I assumed the role of CSA president, taking over from Dr. Tarlok Sahota. I would like to express my gratitude to Dr. Brian Beres for nominating me and to Dr. Sahota and the executive board of CSA for entrusting me with this role. I am honoured and feel privileged to serve the society as president and I look forward to working very closely with members of the executive board and all members of CSA in strengthening and advancing our society, building on its rich history, and carrying forward its immense legacy.

I recently read the [history of our society](#), written by a former CSA president (1993-95), Professor Bruce Coulman. The history of CSA goes back to 1919, when the Western Canadian Society of Agronomy (WCSA) was established. Later on, in the late 1940s, the Eastern Canadian Society of Agronomy (ECSA) was established and soon after, in 1953, a committee, was appointed to sketch out the constitution for a national Canadian Society of Agronomy. Then in 1954 the Canadian Society of Agronomy was officially established.

Today, your CSA is an educational and scientific society, dedicated to enhancing cooperation and coordination among agronomists, facilitating scientific exchange, and supporting a new generation of scientists. We are fortunate to have a strong core of active members, which includes faculty members from faculties of Agriculture in different universities, Research Scientists from Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada, and provincial government organizations, as well as Extension specialists from across Canada. Over the last 20-25 years, the number of faculty members and research scientists in different agriculture disciplines has dropped and so has the number of CSA membership. However, opportunities exist to further strengthen our society by enticing additional potential members. Therefore, I would like to ask all CSA members to be an advocate of our society in their organizations and encourage their colleagues and students to join CSA.

Your Canadian Society of Agronomy has held annual meetings every year since its establishment in 1954. These meetings provide the opportunity for scientific exchange, igniting new collaboration among scientists, recognizing scientific achievements by Canadian scientists, and supporting a new generation of agricultural scientists. This year, we had a very successful annual meeting, jointly organized with the Canadian Society of Horticultural Science (CSHS). I would like to sincerely thank the co-chairs of the meeting, my colleagues Professors Jaswinder Singh and Valerie Gravel, both of McGill University, and other members of the local organizing committee for the fantastic event they organized. In 2017, your CSA is working with the Canadian Phytopathological Society to hold a joint [CPS-CSA meeting in Winnipeg](#). Please mark your calendar to participate and present your research at this joint meeting.

Since 1956, the Canadian Journal of Plant Science (CJPS) has been our official journal, providing an outlet for communication of scientific findings, nationally and internationally. The journal recently underwent a transition to a new publisher and is currently published by the Canadian Science Publishing. The current CSA editor on the CJPS Editorial Board is Dr. Brian Beres, working with a number of CSA members as Associate Editors or reviewers. As CSA president and the former Editor of CJPS, I acknowledge and appreciate all the effort that Brian and his team of Associate Editors put into the success of our journal and I would like to encourage CSA members to consider publishing their research in CJPS.

I would like to conclude my message by highlighting the importance of student membership in our society. Scientific research is all about learning and teaching and therefore, students are an important part of what we all do. CSA has always valued its student membership and every year has recognized student participation through a number of awards and scholarships. I am delighted to report that our student rep on the executive board, PhD student Gurcharn Brar (University of Saskatchewan) is working to initiate a new photo/video competition for student members. I encourage all students to consider participating in this competition as well as in our annual meeting by presenting their research. I joined CSA when I was a graduate student and over the years throughout my career path have immensely enjoyed being part of this society.

I wish all CSA members success. I look forward to seeing all of you at future CSA events and to serving as your president.

Alireza Navabi, President

CSA Awards

CSA Distinguished Agronomist Award:

Dr. Malcolm Morrison

Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada
Ottawa Research and Development Centre

Recipient of the 2016 CSA Distinguished Agronomist Award. This is the highest award offered by CSA. Malcolm's contributions in the area of crop physiology, his significant representation of CSA – including roles as President and also as Associate Editor to the Canadian Journal of Plant Science (CJPS); his contributions to the mentorship of students and highly qualified personnel were all factors that the Awards Committee considered in their unanimous endorsement of his nomination.



CSA Fellow:

Dr. Alireza Navabi

Associate Professor
Grain Farmers of Ontario Professorship in Wheat Breeding
University of Guelph

Recipient of the 2016 CSA Fellow Award. Ali's contributions to the Canadian and international wheat breeding community, his significant representation of CSA - first as an Associate Editor and then as the Editor-In-Chief role to the Canadian Journal of Plant Science (CJPS); his incoming role as President-Elect, and his contributions to the mentorship of students and highly qualified personnel were all factors that the Awards Committee considered in their unanimous endorsement of his nomination.



Best Agronomy Paper in Canadian Journal of Plant Science in 2015:

Hiroshi Kubota (CSA member), Sylvie Quideau, Pierre Hucl (CSA member) and Dean Spaner (CSA member).

For the paper: 'The effect of weeds on soil arbuscular mycorrhizal fungi and agronomic traits in spring wheat (*Triticum aestivum* L) under organic management in Canada', published in the Canadian Journal of Plant Science. The first author, Mr. Hiroshi Kubota, presented an oral presentation based on this excellent at the annual CSA conference in Montreal, July 24-26th. The authors also received a \$500 stipend.



Hiroshi Kubota (left) and Dean Spaner (right)

Membership Fees for 2017

The Executive decided it was time to revisit the fee structure. It has not changed for a number of years. The fees for 2017 will be:

- Regular membership fees increase from \$90 to \$100
- Graduate Student fees remain unchanged at \$25
- Post doctoral fees increase from \$45 to \$50
- Retired members decrease from \$45 to \$30
- Emeritus members decrease from \$30 to \$25
- A new category (non-voting), undergraduate student, at \$15, was added

CSA-CSHS Annual Conference Montreal 2016

Thank You and it was a Financial Success!

Canadian Society of Agronomy (CSA) and the Canadian Society of Horticultural Science (CSHS) held their Joint Annual Conference, July 24-26, 2016 at Hotel La Plaza Montreal. I take pleasure in reproducing a brief report about the conference from Dr. Jaswinder Singh, McGill University, Montreal (with some editing):

“Over 100 delegates of the CSA and the CSHS took part in the conference. The conference was a big success and attracted delegates from Canada, USA, Europe, and Asia. The local conference organizing committee was led by Profs. Jaswinder Singh and Valerie Gravel of McGill University and supported by Philippe Seguin and Marie Therese as members. The theme of the conference was “***Sustaining and improving agricultural production under the increasing complexities***”. Prof Anja Geitmann, Dean of the Faculty of Agricultural and Environmental Science, McGill University, Montreal inaugurated the conference with her inspiring opening remarks, including her appreciation for the relevance of the theme, followed by a plenary speech on “Wither Agronomy Research” by Dr Gilles Saindon, Associate Assistant Deputy Minister, AAFC, Ottawa. The conference focused on 7 different sessions including Food Security and Sustainability, Agronomy and Cropping Systems, Biotic Stresses, Abiotic Stresses, Nutrient and Water Management, Plant Breeding and Genetic Resources and Genomics and Biotechnology. Keynote lectures were delivered in each session by highly reputed scientists from Canada, USA and Europe; Drs. Maurice Moloney (Executive Director & CEO Global Institute for Food Security, Saskatoon), Paul Fixen (Senior Vice President IPNI and President ASA, USA), Vladimir Vujanovic (Associate Professor and Agri-Food Innovation Chair, University of Saskatchewan), Odile Carisse (Research Scientist, AAFC Saint-Jean-sur-Richelieu, Quebec), Karen Tanino (Professor Plant Sciences, University of Saskatchewan), Laura Van Eerd (Associate Professor, University of Guelph), Fred Stoddard (Professor of Grain Technology, University of Helsinki, Finland) and Jayasankar Subramanian (Professor Plant Agriculture, University of Guelph). A post conference tour of Agronomy Farm and Horticulture Centre, Macdonald campus McGill University, was held where delegates got an opportunity to observe ongoing research on field crops, vegetables and fruits.”

The conference was also a financial success (details may be seen in CSA Financial Report)! The conference provided enough time for networking. Credit for this success goes not only to the CSA and CSHS Executives, Local Organization Committee and the participants (including the student participants), but also to our key note speakers and sponsors. Presentations at the conference, especially by our key note speakers, were rated extremely well and the students' presentations were considered as good as those of researchers/professors. Thanks to all those who made presentations at the conference. CSA is indebted to Drs. Gilles Saindon, Paul Fixen and Bill Deen who agreed to participate and deliver their talks on their own account. CSA 2016 Executive and the Past Presidents admired Dr. Fixen's presence during the entire conference! I also wish to thank all CSA sponsors (Agrium Inc., AIC, C&M Seeds, CropLife Canada, CSP, GFO, In Focus, La Coop fédérée, Monsanto, and Secan) as also the sponsors for the CSA-CSHS (Belcan, Biofuels Net, Dean McGill University and IDRC). Thanks are also due to Barbara Sanipelli for developing conference website and taking care of all communications during the conference. Support from our Executive Director Dr. Steve Sheppard is duly acknowledged. I am also grateful to several volunteers without whom the conference activities couldn't be so well conducted. Last, but not the least, I would like to convey my thanks to the management and staff of La Plaza for providing adequate facilities, excellent food (was appreciated by all) and wonderful music at the Banquet.

Tarlok Singh Sahota
Past President

2016 CSA Annual Meeting: Graduate Student Presentation & Poster Awards

A total of 11 presentations, and 19 posters were judged at the conference.
Judges were:

Alison Nelson
Rigas Karamanos

Yvonne Lawley
Dean Spaner

Presentation Award Winners:



First Place – Mathieu Vaillancourt – Université Laval
Canola N nutrition and productivity as affected by a combination of cover crop and organic or mineral fertilization

Second Place – Patrick Walther – University of Manitoba

Corn residue management for soybean production in Manitoba: On-farm trial



Third Place – Alex Whittal – University of Guelph
Characterization of vernalization and photoperiod response in fall-planted wheat in South Western Ontario

Poster Award Winners:

First Place – Erin Zahradka – University of Manitoba

Effects of flooding on growth and recovery of forage plants



Second Place – Emily Gordon – University of Guelph

Screening synthetic hexaploid wheat derivatives for phosphorus use efficiency



Third Place – Noabur Rahman – University of Saskatchewan

Interaction of copper and zinc with variable soil phosphorus for crop production in rotation



Student Travel Award Winners:

Erin Zahradka –
University of Manitoba



Laura Schmidt –
University of Manitoba

Patrick Walther –
University of Manitoba



Noabur Rahman –
University of Saskatchewan

Jing Xie –
University of Saskatchewan



FUTURE CSA ANNUAL MEETINGS:

2017. We will have a joint CPS-CSA meeting from June 18 to 21, 2017 in the Delta Winnipeg Hotel, Winnipeg, Manitoba (<http://phytopath.ca/meetings/2017-joint-meeting-canadian-phytopathological-society-canadian-society-agronomy/>).

2018. The executive board is exploring the possibility of holding a joint meeting with ASA & CSSA in Baltimore, MD, Nov. 4-7, 2018. Stay tuned for further details.

2019. CSA annual meeting will be part of Plant Canada meeting to be held in Guelph, Ontario.

Survey of Participants at the Montreal 2016 Conference

We should do a survey every conference. Here's results from this year, we had 47 people do the survey.

Was the Montreal venue a good place for this meeting? Yes: 44 (94%)

Was as the time of year good for your attendance? Yes: 42 (89%)

Comment (% response)	Poor	Average	Very good	Best of the year	Does not apply
Preconference communications and information	11	21	64	4	0
On-line registration process	4	13	77	6	0
Coordination and organization during the conference	2	13	65	20	0
Conference facilities	4	22	59	15	0
Food provided (meals and breaks)	2	15	43	40	0
Tour	2	13	9	4	72
Scientific value of the conference	4	23	60	11	2
Cost value of the conference	4	47	40	6	2

There were a lot of written comments as well. Thank you for those. There were some negatives. There was a series of comments about the role of undergraduate students, and that some did not feel they were welcomed. The intent of CSA is that all students are welcome. There may have been a concern that undergraduates are less likely to have results that sufficiently advance the science. Of course, this could apply to anyone! For undergraduates making presentations, we trust their supervisors to support and direct them so that their presentations are consistent in quality with those of the more advanced attendees.

There were also a number of other comments about oral presentations where there were language or enunciation problems, or in need of better microphones. Clearly, this is a challenge. Everyone doing an oral presentation should do a rehearsal. And then it is up to colleagues to coach them about pace and clarity.

We also did a survey of CSA members who did not attend Montreal 2016. There were 46 respondents:

Concern (% response)	Irrelevant	Somewhat important	Quite important	Most important
Cost of travel	38	21	29	12
Cost of conference registration	50	26	17	7
Time of year, conflict with work	20	20	23	36
Time of year, conflict with other agendas	20	20	24	36
Scientific topics not useful	57	30	7	4

Video Competition, 2017 Annual Conference

A video competition will be associated with the 2017 CSA Annual Meeting. It is aimed at procuring videos from young professionals on agronomic topics. The video needs to be easily understood by high school students, undergraduates and growers. These videos will be posted on the CSA website, under CSA copyright, and will be accessible worldwide for educational purposes (we take consent from the students when they submit the videos).

CJPS Special Issue from 2016 Annual Conference

The Canadian Society of Agronomy held the 2016 annual meeting jointly with the Canadian Society for Horticultural Science. The meeting took place in Montreal on July 24-26.

The theme for this year's conference was 'Sustaining and Improving Agricultural Production Under Increasing Complexities'. A diverse group of eminent scientists were invited to present keynote addresses within the context of this theme, which began with a Plenary Lecture by Dr. Gilles Saindon, Associate Deputy Minister for AAFC, speaking on 'Whither Agronomy Research'. The authors of all plenary and keynote addresses have been invited to synthesize their presentations into manuscripts for publication into a special issue of the Canadian Journal of Plant Science. Dr. Elroy Cober with AAFC-Ottawa will be the Editor responsible for this special issue.

A special thanks to all contributing authors that made this conference a success, which would not have been possible without the tremendous efforts of the local organizing Committee comprised of: Jaswinder Singh (Co-Chair; McGill); Valerie Gravel (Co-Chair; McGill); Philippe Seguin (McGill); Marie Therese Charles (AAFC); Tarlok Sahota (President-CSA); and Samir Debnath (President; CSHS).

Brian Beres
Editor-Can J Plant Sci

2017 Joint Meeting of the Canadian Phytopathological Society and the Canadian Society of Agronomy June 18 to 21, 2017



Delta Winnipeg Hotel
350 St. Mary Avenue
Winnipeg, Manitoba



On behalf of the local arrangements committee of the 2017 joint meeting of the Canadian Phytopathological Society (CPS) and the Canadian Society of Agronomy (CSA), we invite you to join us at the Delta Winnipeg Hotel, 350 St. Mary Avenue, Winnipeg, MB. The CPS and CSA are excited by the opportunity to co-host this 2017 joint meeting to enhance interaction between members of the two societies and broaden educational opportunities for their members.

The objectives of the CPS are to encourage research, education, and the dissemination of knowledge on the nature, cause, and control of plant diseases. CPS sponsored national and regional meetings promote communication among plant pathologists, and those interested in plant diseases from industry, government and academia.

The CSA is dedicated to enhancing cooperation and coordination among agronomists, recognizing significant achievements in agronomy, and providing opportunities to report and evaluate information pertinent to agronomy in Canada.

The CPS/CSA have negotiated a room rate of \$169.00 (plus taxes)/night for a standard room at the Delta Hotel Winnipeg.

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