

# CSA Newsletter

Canadian Society of Agronomy September 2001



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# CSA Newsletter

Canadian Society of Agronomy September 2001



## President's Message

The Canadian Society of Agronomy has been presented with several options since the summer and I would like to know members' views to better represent your wishes. All of the opportunities (listed below in the order in which they were received) involve liaisons that have implications for our annual conference.

### Opportunity 1

Plant Canada, which is a federation of Canadian plant science societies and which has as members the Canadian Society of Plant Physiologists and the Canadian Botanical Society, has asked the CSA to join. The primary goal of the Federation is to provide an opportunity for scientists interested in plant biology to meet together every second year (typically in June). Plant Canada presently plans to meet in 2003 at St. Francis Xavier University in Antigonish, N.S. ( a relatively small venue) and could only accommodate up to 50 CSA members. The next meeting is planned for 2005 at the University of Alberta which could accommodate a much larger meeting. There are no dues from member organizations. The CSA is being asked to provide two board members to Plant Canada. Board meetings will coincide with Plant Canada meetings and so board members would look after their own expenses associated with the meeting. Between meetings board members would be in contact by email. If funds were required for a Plant Canada project the member societies would be approached for financial support, but the aim is to keep expenses to a minimum.

#### Current status:

Opinion of the Executive of CSA on whether to join Plant Canada is mixed, with some members welcoming the liaison and others preferring a more agriculturally focussed association. One approach could be for CSA members with a strong interest in plant biology who work near the meeting venue (or who are prepared to travel) to attend Plant Canada in 2003 and report back to CSA. The Society would indicate a potential interest in joining the Federation.

### Opportunity 2

Representatives of the Scientific Societies got together at AIC in Guelph to discuss activities of mutual interest, but specifically the possibility of joint annual conferences either within or outside the AIC framework. At that time, the Societies identified a need for better communication among themselves and proposed a Scientific Society Committee which could exist as an AIC committee or outside the AIC. The committee would consist of two representatives from each society (the president and one long term representative for continuity) and possibly the two Associate Member Organization (AMO) representatives to AIC. [Scientific Societies are the Associate Member Organizations of AIC]. The scientific society committee would get together at least annually to discuss priorities and would plan a joint scientific conference in 2004.

Following this initiative, one of the current AMO representatives polled presidents of the Scientific Societies to determine what kind of conference program they want within AIC - one around broad topics or one around specific commodities or disciplines. The AIC Executive is presently actively asking for Scientific Society input to future conference programs and has indicated a willingness to change the conference to meet the needs of the Scientific Societies.

◀ [continued on back page](#) (click to go to back page)



## Genetically Modified Organisms

*In the June 2001 issue we presented the first of what we said would be a two part look at GMOs. To present the position against we took a quote of four "myths" from the Greenpeace web site. We said that in this issue we would provide points raised in favour of them.*

*The article received many comments, for which we are grateful. In particular, thanks to Patricia Juskiw of Field Crop Development Centre, Alberta-Canada Barley Group who compiled comments from around the coffee table there which respond to the four myths as follows:*

### **MYTH #1: Genetic modification is no different than traditional breeding.**

FACT: Genetic modification is just another tool to be used in the breeding process. The new technologies do now give us the capacity to move genes between species more easily. But the truth is we have been doing this for a long time. Triticale is a new species generated by crossing rye (*Secale cereale*) and either durum (*Triticum aestivum*) or bread (*T. durum*) wheat. Rust resistance in wheat has been derived from interspecific crosses with *Aegilops* and other grass species. The truth is that much of the genetic material of all life is very similar. It is the turning on and off of that genetic material that controls what we are, or will become.

### **MYTH #2: Genetically modified crops will help the environment and reduce herbicide use.**

FACT: Organic farmers rely on the use of pesticides, herbicides and resistant cultivars by their neighbours to reduce the incidence of insects, weeds and diseases. Under the reduced pest load, organic techniques become useful.

Genetic tools may be the only means we have to control *Fusarium* head blight in cereals (including maize). All cereals are susceptible to this pathogen--although they do differ in this susceptibility. It may only be by understanding the mechanism of resistance from non-host organisms that we can turn on or insert genes for resistance into the cereals.

### **MYTH #3: The Government ensures that genetic engineering is safe for the environment and human health.**

FACT: If we feed enough of anything to insects, animals and humans, they will probably get sick from it. Many of the things we use/consume daily (sodium) are toxic at a high enough level. But do you really want the Government telling you how much salt you can have on your french fries?

One could argue in a supply and demand economy that any variety released that has potential for higher yields constitutes a threat as it will increase supply and thereby reduce prices. This price reduction could constitute a threat to the farmer with the smaller yields of an older variety.

### **MYTH #4: Biotechnology will solve world hunger.**

FACT: Only equality of all persons will solve world hunger. Genetically modified plants do offer us an opportunity to incorporate limiting amino acids and vitamins into staple foods.

*These preceding remarks are drawn from comments by Patricia Juskiw, James Helm, Donald Salmon, Jennifer Zantinge, Joseph Nyachiro, Manuel Cortez, and others....*

*A further resource for information was ~~provided by Lyle Drew who suggested~~ material from the Crop Protection Institute. In their Secondary School Teacher's Resource Manual they have a section "Myths and Facts About Biotechnology". While they are not identical to the issues raised by Greenpeace some are similar enough to include them.*

### **Myth: The application of biotechnology to crops and food is very different from traditional agricultural methods.**

Fact: Biotechnology is an evolution of traditional agricultural methods. In the past 10,000 years people have routinely used their knowledge of plants to improve food production. Biotechnology is simply the latest development in the evolution of agricultural methods.

Farmers used to rely on plant breeding to add, or eliminate, specific genetic traits in a plant. For example, corn today looks nothing like it did one hundred years ago because of plant breeding and selection. Although it typically took several growing seasons to produce a plant that expressed a desired trait, farmers were able to create crops that:

- were resistant to drought, insect pests and diseases
- possessed stronger stalks and improved ability to withstand strong winds, and

- produced higher yields.

Genetic enhancement, a key feature of modern plant biotechnology, is a more efficient and precise way to achieve the benefits of crop improvement. Using new technologies, scientists are now able to pinpoint the gene responsible for a particular trait, then extract, or add, that gene to a specific plant.

**Myth: Crops produced using biotech will negatively impact the environment.**

Fact: Crops produced using biotechnology provide growers with more options to help them control weeds and insects. In some cases, genetically modified crops may reduce the use of pesticides. Options such as biotechnology are very important when it comes to Integrated Pest Management (IPM) practices. Through IPM, growers can choose the technology that is most appropriate for the pest or weed situation including pesticides, biological control methods, cultivation practices or biotechnology. All of these methods support Integrated Pest Management and sustainable agriculture.

Genetically modified crops have many benefits which can positively impact the environment, including improved weed control, better soil conservation, limiting herbicide resistance, more flexibility for fall and early spring planting, reclaiming land for food production and higher yields from the land currently in production.

**Myth: Foods produced using biotechnology have not been established as safe nor are they adequately regulated.**

Fact: The Canadian Food Inspection Agency (CFIA), Health Canada, and provincial and municipal authorities are all involved in ensuring the safety of the food we consume. CFIA has the principal responsibility for genetically modified organisms. Crops produced by biotechnology must meet the same rigorous standards as those created through traditional means. While there is no such thing as “zero risk” for any food, consumers can be confident that foods produced using biotechnology meet the government’s stringent food safety standards. (For more on our regulatory system, call 1-800-0-Canada.)

Biotechnology is one of the most extensively researched and reviewed agricultural developments ever. Years of research including thousands of field trials and testing for food composition, nutrition, potential for new toxins and allergens, agronomic performance and environmental impact, indicates that the benefits of agricultural biotechnology far outweigh any risks.

**Myth: Biotechnology cannot relieve world hunger.**

Fact: Biotechnology *can* help alleviate hunger worldwide. In the next 50 years the global population is expected to double, reaching more than 8 billion people by 2050. Population growth and diet upgrading will require the food supply to increase by at least 250 percent from its current quantity. Scientists are studying ways of improving yields (hybrid wheats), directing more plant resources to the food portions (vs. stems, etc.) and enhancing the efficiency of photosynthesis.

The amount of land currently committed for food production - approximately 36 percent of the earth’s cumulative land mass - cannot yield the amount of food needed by this increased population. Although forests could be cleared to obtain needed acreage, a better approach is to use biotechnology to get greater crop yields from existing land.

Biotechnology can increase the quantity of the harvest by addressing the factors that traditionally deplete crops: pests, weeds, drought and wind. Plants from biotechnology can deal with these hardships and dramatically increase the percentage of crops that survive and are harvested each year.

*The teacher’s manual also lists a number of biotech web sites that are available, broken down into Science and Government, Industry and Consumer. The Crop Protection Institute’s web site is [www.cropro.org](http://www.cropro.org).*

*The Royal Society submitted the report of its Expert Panel on the Future of Food Biotechnology on February 4<sup>th</sup>, 2001. This report is available at <http://www.rsc.ca/foodbiotechnology/indexEN.html>.*

*We hope that these two articles have stimulated discussion among our members and look forward to doing further topics of interest. If you have a topic you would like to see included, please contact the editor. We welcome your suggestions and input.*

*Ingrid Ostick*

## EDITORIAL

### Talking about GMOs ... its risky

This has been interesting. After we listed the Green Peace 'myths' about GMOs, the volume of email through my office trebled. Most people wanted the debate to continue. A number offered to provide counter-arguments, things you might chose to say if your favorite nephew asked these tough questions. It is all very interesting.

I have a little different perspective on this. Maybe it comes from my 20-years of involvement with the nuclear industry. There are no right answers. The public wants and expects scientists to have definitive answers, but rarely can we honestly give them. Especially about the word 'safe'. Safety is in the mind of the participants. Safety is a statement about risk. Not much can be said to be 100.0000% safe. Frankly, anyone who claims that GMOs offer no risk is not being scientific about the work risk. And if we are not scientific, then what are we?

Green Peace typically draws a line between voluntary risk and involuntary risk. One of the emails I got ridiculed Green Peace activists who recently demonstrated against GMOs at a food store in Regina, and yet were seen smoking. Yes, the risk of harm from smoking is probably much greater than the risk from GMOs. But the activist smoked voluntarily. He/she is not asked if a researcher can release GMOs. It is along these lines that so many activists oppose big business activities, such as nuclear power reactors and hydroelectric dams. This is a nearly insolvable dilemma. It does not help to purport the activists are wrong about there being some degree of risk.

I think one can argue that someday, some genetically engineered organism will do something we don't like. I suggest this is a certainty, and so do to the activists. Science of today cannot predict what science of tomorrow will know. We have not managed genetics in a flawless manner to date. Look at how badly we managed species introductions to Australia. You can argue that conventional breeding depauperates genetic stocks and increases the risk of pathogen outbreaks. Maybe there are better examples.

At the same time, we must explore the GMO options. This is not in conflict with my assertion that some harm will result. I simply believe that we can manage the risk, and the risk/reward ratio favours GMO development. The challenge facing scientists is to not take a polarized stance, but to present science to the public. Any ideas?

*Steve Sheppard*  
*Executive Director*  
[sheppards@ecomatters.com](mailto:sheppards@ecomatters.com)

## THANK YOU

I want to sincerely thank all those who were involved in nominating and supporting my selection as a Fellow of CSA. This is an honour that I never expected. It goes without saying that this type of recognition comes as a result of input from many people. I have been fortunate to have a Technician, Mac Whaley, who has been with me for more than 28 years. When I have needed to be away from the Centre or dealing with administrative matters, he has more than capably carried the ball on the research side to keep it rolling. In addition, the great collaboration among my colleagues here at the Centre and those at other Institutions has made doing research in Weed Science a joy and a pleasure. Finally, without the input from a great group of farmers and farm organizations who keep the ideas flowing and the OMAFRA Extension to help get the results to those who can use them, my opportunity to receive this award would not have happened. I am truly grateful to all.

*Al Hamill, PhD., P. Ag. (Dist.)*



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## Canadian Journal of Plant Science/Revue Canadien de Phytotechnie 2001 Editor's report for Volume 80 (2000)

The upward trend in number of submitted manuscripts continued in 2000 with a total of 196 papers received (an 8% increase over 1999). The category breakdown was:

- 70 Full Papers
- 14 Short Communications
- 52 cultivar description
- 4 Reviews
- 20 manuscripts are still in process (as of June 22, 2001)

A total of 30 manuscripts were rejected (15%) and 6 were withdrawn. A comparison with 1999 indicates a substantial increase in the number of cultivar descriptions and review articles published.

As in previous years Canadian institutions

contributed the majority of papers, but in 2000 contributions from other countries were more numerous than those from the United States for the first time since 1998. The details:

- Canadian manuscripts: 159 (81%) up 5% from 1999
- U.S. manuscripts: 15 (8%) down 5% from 1999
- Other countries: 22 (11%) up 57% from 1999

Federal Government labs once again were the major sources of Canadian submissions (62% of the total), but University contributions were also up (Table 3). In both cases submission rates were the highest in 4 years, a positive and very encouraging trend.

*Peter Hicklenton*

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### CSA Annual Meeting 2002 - Program Planning is Underway!

The Canadian Society of Agronomy 2002 program committee met on 03 October to begin planning the Scientific and Technical Sessions for the Saskatoon meeting to be held on 15-17 July 2002. The committee members and their responsibilities are:

- Liaison with AIC organizing committee and general chair
- Program
- Banquet
- Budget and fund raising
- Tours
- Publicity and co-chair

Bruce Coulman  
Eric Johnson, Steve Shirtliffe  
Brian Rossnagel  
Adrian Johnston  
Brian Fowler  
Paul Jefferson

Two symposia sessions are proposed for Monday and Wednesday afternoons. The first one on cropping systems could be a joint session with the Canadian Society of Agrometeorology. The second one will be about genetically modified crop plants and their impact on Canadian agriculture. This topic fits well with the AIC program theme "Science - Process or Product". CSA members who have suggestions for speakers for these sessions can contact Eric, Steve or any other committee member.

There will be concurrent sessions of volunteered presentations on Tuesday including a graduate student paper competition so these members are especially encouraged to contribute presentations, either oral or poster, to the volunteer program. Watch for the upcoming call for titles and abstracts over the next few months.

There are many agronomic research facilities, both public and private, located in Saskatoon. A tour of several facilities on Wednesday morning will give CSA members a chance to see agronomic research in process.

#### Email addresses:

Bruce Coulman	<a href="mailto:CoulmanB@em.agr.ca">CoulmanB@em.agr.ca</a>
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**Mark these dates (15-17 July 2002) on your calendar and plan to attend CSA 2002 in Saskatoon.**

*Paul Jefferson*

## **Durum Wheat Breeder**

**Crop Development Centre  
University of Saskatchewan  
Saskatoon, Saskatchewan**

The Crop Development Centre, University of Saskatchewan, is seeking a Wheat Breeder. This is a continuing status position at the rank of Assistant Professor and is available immediately.

The successful applicant will be expected to assume and maintain a well established and productive breeding program involving durum and high yielding spring wheats and to attract research funding. The incumbent will also be expected to perform extension duties as required and to teach one 3 credit class in plant breeding or a related area in the department of Plant Sciences.

Applicants should have a Ph.D. in plant breeding and genetics, demonstrated ability in field and laboratory research and teaching and the potential to participate in extension activities aimed at wheat producers. Relevant post-doctoral experience would be an asset. Candidates should be eligible for membership in the Saskatchewan Institute of Agrologists.

The Crop Development Centre is a research unit within the department of Plant Sciences and employs 10 scientists. It also supports the research programs of three Plant Sciences faculty members and one pulse research chair. The terms of reference for this position are defined by an agreement between the University of Saskatchewan and the Saskatchewan Department of Agriculture and Food.

The annual operating budget of the Centre is approximately \$7 M and it has access to a large research land base and excellent laboratory, greenhouse and phytotron facilities. Potential applicants are invited to visit the Department's website [<http://www.usask.ca/agriculture/plantsci/index.html>] for more detailed information on the Department and the Centre.

The University of Saskatchewan is committed to Employment Equity. Members of designated groups (women, aboriginal people, people with disabilities and visible minorities) are encouraged to self-identify on their applications.

Send curriculum vitae, a statement of research, extension and teaching experience, as well as the names, addresses, telephone/fax numbers and e-mail addresses of at least three referees by October 31, 2001 to:

**F.A. Holm, Director, Crop Development Centre  
University of Saskatchewan  
51 Campus Drive, Saskatoon SK, S7N 5A8 Canada**

## **Pulse Crop Pathologist**

**Crop Development Centre  
University of Saskatchewan  
Saskatoon, Saskatchewan**

Applications are invited for a continuing status position at the rank of Assistant Professor, effective April 1, 2002.

The successful applicant will be expected to initiate and obtain research funding for a vigorous research program in pulse crop pathology and to support a well established and productive pulse crop breeding program involving field pea, lentil, chickpea and dry bean. The incumbent will also be expected to perform extension duties as required and to develop and teach one 3 credit class in the management of crop diseases or a related area in the department of Plant Sciences.

Applicants should have a Ph.D. in plant pathology, demonstrated ability in research and teaching and the potential to participate in extension activities aimed at pulse crop producers. Relevant post-doctoral experience would be an asset. Candidates should be eligible for membership in the Saskatchewan Institute of Agrologists.

The Crop Development Centre is a research unit within the department of Plant Sciences and employs 10 scientists. It also supports the research programs of three Plant Sciences faculty members and one pulse research chair. The terms of reference and assignment of duties for this position are defined by a Strategic Research Agreement between the University of Saskatchewan and the Saskatchewan Department of Agriculture and Food.

The annual operating budget of the Centre is approximately \$7 M and it has access to a large research land base and excellent laboratory, greenhouse and phytotron facilities. Potential applicants are invited to visit the Department's website [<http://www.usask.ca/agriculture/plantsci/index.html>] for more detailed information on the Department and the Centre.

The University of Saskatchewan is committed to Employment Equity. Members of designated groups (women, aboriginal people, people with disabilities and visible minorities) are encouraged to self-identify on their applications.

Send curriculum vitae, a statement of research, extension and teaching experience, as well as the names, addresses and telephone/fax numbers and e-mail addresses of at least three referees by October 31, 2001 to:



**Minutes of Annual Business Meeting  
Canadian Society of Agronomy  
July 10, 2001  
University of Guelph**

President Cynthia Grant called the Annual Meeting to order at 12:30.

**1. Approval of the agenda**

Moved by Surya Acharya, Seconded by Rigas Karamanos to approve the agenda. Carried.

**2. Introduction of the Executive**

Members of the Executive were introduced.

**3. Approval of the 2000 Annual Meeting Minutes**

Moved by Gilles Bélanger, Seconded by Paul Jefferson to accept the minutes. Carried.

**4. Business arising from the minutes**

No business arising from the minutes.

**5. Reports**

*5.1 Treasurer*

The audited financial statements were presented by Gilles Bélanger.

Moved by Gilles Bélanger, Seconded by Jerry Ivany to accept the 2000 audited financial statements. Carried.

*5.2 President*

Cynthia Grant presented a written report.

Moved by Dave Hume, Seconded by Tom Bruulsema to accept the President's report. Carried.

*5.3 Executive Director*

Steve Sheppard, CSA Executive Director, presented a written report.

Moved by Paul Jefferson, Seconded by Dave Major to accept the Executive Director's report. Carried.

Cynthia Grant announced that the CSA Executive had renewed the agreement with Steve Sheppard for another year for \$7000. Steve will continue to provide the same services to CSA.

*5.4 Membership*

The membership report was presented by Gilles Bélanger.

Moved by Rigas Karamanos, Seconded by Tom Bruulsema to accept the report. Carried.

*5.5 Newsletter*

The newsletter issue was discussed with the report from the Executive Director.

*5.6 Canadian Journal of Plant Science*

Peter Hicklenton, CJPS Editor, presented a written report.

Moved by Peter Hicklenton, Seconded by Dave Major to accept the report. Carried.

*5.7 Awards*

Adrian Johnston prepared a written report, which was presented by Cynthia Grant.

Moved by Dave Major, Seconded by Tom Bruulsema to accept the report. Carried.

*5.8 Pest management Scholarship*

Jerry Ivany presented a written report.

Moved by Jerry Ivany, Seconded by Yousef Papadopoulos to accept the report. Carried.

*5.9 AIC Research Foundation*

Cynthia Grant presented a verbal report.

*5.10 Expert Committee on Plant and Microbial Gene Resources*

No report was presented.

*5.11 Expert Comm. Cereal and Oilseeds*

Harvey Voldeng sent a written report (summary of meeting prepared by Claude Caldwell).

*5.12 Expert Comm. Grain*

No report was presented.

*5.13 Nomination*

Dave Major presented the report of the nominations committee. Paul Jefferson was nominated as President-Elect and Shabtai Bittman was nominated as Secretary Treasurer. Ron Pidskalny was nominated as Western Director (in replacement of Pat Juskiw) and Bill Deen was nominated as Eastern

Director (in replacement of Jerry Ivany).  
Moved by Dave Major, Seconded by Surya  
Committee's report. Carried.

Moved by Norman Lawson, Seconded by  
Hans Nass that nomination cease.

The suggestion in the report of removing the  
representation on the Expert Committee on grain and  
the Expert Committee on Cereals and Oilseeds from  
our list of Officers was not accepted by the members  
attending the meeting.

## 6. Joint meeting with CSAS and CSSS

Cynthia Grant presented the outcome of a meeting  
with the other scientific societies held on 8 July. A  
more formalized committee of the scientific societies  
will continue working through AIC. The discussions  
are in progress and information will be provided in  
the newsletter.

## 7. CSA 2002 meeting update

The CSA annual meeting in 2002 will be held in  
Saskatoon along with AIC. Bruce Coulman, Brian  
Fowler, and Paul Jefferson will be asked to organize  
the CSA technical program.

## 8. Appointment of auditors

The auditors will be appointed by the secretary-  
treasurer.

## 9. Other points



Dr. Dave Hume awarding Annie Claessens (left photo) and Orla Nazarko (right photo) Student Awards at the Annual General Meeting in Guelph July 10, 2001. Also receiving awards were Ingvar Björnsson (Student Award) and Robin Underwood (Pest Management Research Award) (pictures not available).

Acharya to accept the Nominations  
The following three items were added to the agenda:

- Linkage with the Range Management Society. (CSA was approached and P. Jefferson will explore the possibilities ).
- CSA statement on GMO's. (Suggestion made following the last issue of the newsletter).
- Linkage with Plant Canada. (A letter was received from Plant Canada).

They were not discussed because of lack of time.

## 10. Resolution

WHEREAS the 2001 Canadian Society of Agronomy technical program was well organized with many excellent presentations of leading agronomic science, and

WHEREAS the Canadian Society of Agronomy members enjoyed the technical, social, and networking opportunities provided to them by this meeting,

THEREFORE, be it resolved that we, the CSA members, extend our appreciation and thanks to Dave Hume and his committee for their hard work and dedication on our behalf.

Moved by Norman Lawson, Seconded by Rigas Karamanos that the meeting be adjourned at 14:00.  
Carried.

## Membership 2000

P=Paid U=Unpaid	Regular		Post Grad		Corp		Student Members		Life		Totals		Grand Total
	P	U	P	U	P	U	P	U	P	U	P	U	
<b>British Columbia</b>	5	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	3	0	8	0	8
<b>Alberta</b>	37	3	2	0	0	0	1	0	2	0	42	3	45
<b>Saskatchewan</b>	43	7	1	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	45	7	52
<b>Manitoba</b>	35	7	6	0	3	0	3	0	0	0	47	7	54
<b>Ontario</b>	46	4	0	0	3	0	11	0	1	0	61	4	65
<b>Quebec</b>	14	5	3	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	18	5	23
<b>Atlantic</b>	13	3	3	0	0	0	0	0	4	0	20	3	23
<b>USA &amp; Foreign</b>	11	0	3	0	0	0	2	0	0	0	16	0	16
<b>TOTALS</b>	204	29	18	0	7	0	18	0	10	0	257	29	286

*Continued from Page 1 President's Message*

Current status:

To date, CSA has expressed a willingness to participate in the Scientific Society Committee and has provided feedback to the AMO representative that reports of current activities of AIC Directors are not generally relevant to Scientific Societies. Additional and more constructive feedback from CSA would be welcomed by AIC at this time.

### **Opportunity 3**

The CSA has been approached to join the 4<sup>th</sup> International Conference on Mycorrhizae to be held in Montreal in summer 2003. ICOM is an international conference held every two years which is expected to attract about 600 attendees. It will be the first time this conference will be held in Canada. The Canadian Society of Soil Science and Canadian Society of Horticulture Science have already agreed to hold their annual meeting in conjunction with this conference. The proposal is for Canadian Scientific Societies to have their own annual scientific sessions, business meetings and social functions but to join in joint symposia and workshops with mycorrhizae specialists and other Scientific Societies. The expectation is that such an arrangement will encourage new affiliations and scientific exchanges that will benefit agricultural research.

Current status:

The Executive of CSA has expressed strong interest in joining this conference. However, prior to accepting this invitation I would like to know whether the membership in general supports joining with ICOM4. Presently, there is no host for the AIC Annual Meeting in 2003. The AIC Board plans to make a decision on how to proceed with the 2003 conference at their meeting November 3-4, 2001. The organizers of ICOM4 are anxious to know our response to begin working on program development with CSA representatives. I plan to wait for your comments and the AIC board meeting result before providing CSA's response to ICOM4.

It is evident to me that the CSA and the Scientific Societies in general are in need of input from their members. I would appreciate any comments, opinions or suggestions you have to offer on the above opportunities.

Thanks for your consideration and best wishes for a productive fall.

*Lianne Dwyer  
President*