

**PRESIDENTIAL ADDRESS
TO THE 47TH CONFERENCE 1994**

A. RAHMAN

I am very pleased to present this 1993/94 report to our members. This has been an extremely satisfying and stimulating year for our Society. We have successfully experimented with new initiatives and are delighted with the outcomes.

In August 1993 we held a highly successful Symposium on Plant Protection : Costs, Benefits and Trade Implications, held in conjunction with the 1993 Conference. It was very time consuming to organise and the work continued for several months afterwards to prepare an excellent publication edited by D.M. Suckling and A.J. Popay containing the papers presented. We are indebted to those involved in organising the Symposium and the publication for their dedication and hard work. The scientific and financial success of this venture has given us confidence and enthusiasm for the future and planning is already underway to hold a Symposium on pesticide resistance in conjunction with the 1995 Annual conference.

The special seminar on Potential Problem Weeds hosted by our Society in Wellington, 22-23 June 1994, was another highlight of this year. The seminar was sponsored by the Ministry of Research, Science and Technology, Ministry of Agriculture and Fisheries and the Department of Conservation, and was attended by some 90 invited participants from various organisations including the Regional Councils, farmers, Forest and Bird Protection Society and several government departments. The main outcome of the seminar was a proposal that representations should be made to Government, pointing out deficiencies in the national weed control requirements, and suggesting ways in which they could be improved. A group of seven people was appointed to make these representations. Many colleagues made the comment that it was only a body such as our Society which could have brought together so many organisations interested in weeds and their management (often from different perspectives) in New Zealand. The mana of our Society has been raised considerably with this event, although it required a dedicated team effort headed by Ian Popay, which deserves our sincere thanks.

Our Society in co-operation with Agcarm has been active in reviving the New Zealand Committee on Pesticide Resistance. Three task forces have been formed, one each for insecticides, fungicides and herbicides. Some progress has already been made by these task forces. We hope next year's Symposium will generate further interest in the subject of pesticide resistance - a phenomenon that raises serious questions about the sustainability of current pest management strategies that rely largely on pesticides.

The Society is now affiliated with the Royal Society of New Zealand and is making significant contributions in matters of interest to the progress and well-being of its members. We are now represented on two relevant Committees established this year by the Royal Society viz. the Standing Committee on Primary Production Sciences and Technologies, and the Standing Committee on the Science of the New Zealand Environment. These Committees give us another vehicle to enhance our communication with the politicians and decision-makers whose deliberations often impact heavily on the working life of our members.

In this age of declining membership and decreasing levels of voluntary contributions faced by most societies, we are fortunate to see a reverse trend on both counts. Our membership has increased by 20 this year and the size of this year's proceedings is a glowing proof of increasing scientific contributions. Recognition by the Foundation of Research, Science and Technology that papers published in the Proceedings qualify as legitimate scientific publications is encouraging and is a clear indication of the quality of the material published. Our Editor and the Editorial Committee deserve a special thanks from all the members.

The value of the Society relates directly to the contributions made by its members. I urge you to continue your full and active support to help the Society achieve its prime

objective of pooling and exchanging information related to Plant Protection. Finally, as we are all aware, no society can thrive as well as ours does without a committed Executive. All Committee members have freely given their time and energy in professionally executing tasks for the Society. On my behalf, and on behalf of the members, I thank them all for their enthusiastic and valuable contributions.

SECRETARY'S ANNUAL REPORT 1994/95

J.A. ZABKIEWICZ

The Society continues to flourish ! There has been a most heartening level of support during the past year(s) which can be illustrated best by the "active" membership levels continuing to grow steadily. In 1991/92 the number of fully paid-up members was only 177 out of a mailing list close to 300. In the past year this number rose to 271 out of a list of over 350. However, as mentioned last year, your continued support is essential. We in turn have kept the subscription the same and undertaken to cover the cost of Royal Society affiliation fees.

The past year has seen the recognition of the Society as a powerbroker in the New Zealand scientific community, by the invitation from the Ministry of Research, Science and Technology to develop and provide a forum for discussion of "Potential Problem Weeds" in June 1994. A subsequent publication from this forum has virtually sold out. Later in the year, members of the Executive Committee also coordinated a submission to SpiR on key science areas in New Zealand, with special attention on the value and need for coordinated plant protection research. The result of this has been the development of substantially different guidelines for future FRST bidding rounds.

The annual conference in Paihia turned from a nail-biting organisational exercise to a resounding success, through the highest ever (in recent years) numbers of papers and participants. The profits from the conference were in turn used to boost very substantially the Scholarship account which looks to be well on track to achieve the 50th Anniversary capital sum. Sales of past issues of the Proceedings and donations also helped this project. The contributions from individuals were especially welcome and it's good to see that this trend is continuing this year as well.

A combination of efficiency gains, new activities, and continued sales of "Weeds in Colour" has helped to maintain the Society's profitability. Corporate support and sponsorship has been particularly welcome and further initiatives are planned for this year to increase the "tech transfer" component by having a greater number of overseas visitors participate at our functions. Publication options for the new weeds book are being developed further and final decisions should be made in late 1995.

Plans and ideas for 1997, the 50th anniversary of the Society, are being assessed to make that year memorable for the Society and for New Zealand plant protection science. Further contributions are still welcome !

Thank you one and all for your support.

NEW ZEALAND PLANT PROTECTION SOCIETY RESEARCH SCHOLARSHIP

There were three applicants this year and the recipient chosen was **Lynelle Eustace** who is in her second year of a MSc at Massey University on the topic of "Autecology and control of *Ehrharta villosa*".

