

## **International Plant Resistance to Insects Workshop Marrakech 14-16 April, 2014**

Insect pests are among the most limiting constraints to crop production, inflicting losses of billions of dollars worldwide. Pesticides are routinely used to reduce the damaging impacts of pests, but they are not sustainable as they pose risks to human, animals and to the wild life in general. Host plant resistance (HPR) has been the most economical and environmentally friendly means of controlling pests.

In view of the importance of the use of genetic resistance for the control of insect pests, the International Center for Agricultural Research in the Dry Areas (ICARDA), the National Institute of Agricultural Research (INRA), Morocco, the Moroccan Association of Plant Protection (AMPP) and the International Plant Resistance to Insects Working Group successfully organized the 21<sup>st</sup> Biennial International Plant Resistance to Insects Workshop in Marrakech, Morocco 14-16 April, 2014. This workshop, held under the auspices of the Ministry of Agriculture and Marine Fisheries, was opened by H.E. the Secretary General of the Ministry, Prof. Mohamed Sadiki.

This meeting reviewed the progress and recent advances in the area of host plant resistance to insect pests, and developed international collegiality among HPR researchers. The areas covered during the workshop were:

- Screening methodologies for resistance to insect pests and sources of resistance
- Breeding for resistance to insect pests through conventional and molecular strategies
- Mechanisms of resistance to insect pests

165 participants from some 36 countries representing the five continents (Asia, Africa, Europe, America, and Australia) attended this workshop. Over the last 20 workshops held in the USA, The International Working Group on Resistance to Insects recognized scientists who have made significant contribution to host plant resistance to insects. In the 21<sup>st</sup> IPRI workshop, the HPR award of merit was given to the team which has been engaged on research in the area of host plant resistance to Hessian fly in Morocco since early 1980's and has made significant achievements: several Hessian fly resistant varieties have been released in Morocco and a lot of sources of resistance identified in the cultivated wheat and its wild relatives. The scientists who have made significant contributions to Hessian fly resistance work in Morocco and have been recognized at the IPRI 2014 in Marrakech are:

From the National Institute of Agronomic Research (INRA):

*Dr. Nsarellah Nasserlhaq, Dr. Jlibene Mohamed, Dr. Lhaloui Saadia, Dr. El Hadoury Jamal, Mr. Amamou Ali, Mr. El Haila Mohamed*

From the International Center for Agricultural Research in the Dry Areas (ICARDA):

*Dr. Amri Ahmed, Dr. Nachit Miloudi, Dr. Abdalla Osman, Dr. El Bouhssini Mustapha.*

From the Mid America International Agricultural Consortium (MIAC)/USAID project:

*Dr. Jimmy Hatchet (USDA-ARS, Manhattan, KS).*

For more information about the 21<sup>st</sup> IPRI workshop in Marrakech, please contact:

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