

PLANT PROTECTION SOCIETY OF SLOVENIA 1993-2013

Stanislav TRDAN¹, Ivan ŽEŽLINA², Matej VIDRIH³

^{1,3} University of Ljubljana, Biotechnical Faculty, Dept. of Agronomy, Jamnikarjeva 101, SI-1111 Ljubljana, Slovenia

² Chamber of Agriculture and Forestry of Slovenia, Nova Gorica Institute for Agriculture and Forestry, Pri hrastu 18, SI-5000 Nova Gorica, Slovenia

ABSTRACT

Plant protection society of Slovenia (PPSS) is a professional organisation of experts from agriculture and other scientific fields, researchers, advisers, employees from public administration and companies which all acts as a communication forum, through events and publications, for the profitable and sustainable use of plant protection products. At the moment there is around 200 society members. In 2006 Plant protection society of Slovenia gained from the Ministry of higher education, science and technology of Republic of Slovenia a status of organisation which acts in favour of public interest in the field of research activity and from 2007 Society received from the Ministry of agriculture, forestry and food processing a status of organisation which acts in favour of public interest in the field of agriculture. What bonds us together is common interest and desire to exchange knowledge and experiences with the aim of informing and solving problems in the field of plant protection in Slovenia. Aims and tasks of society are defined in Rules of PPSS and the most important ones are about discussing professional questions and representing professional interests, collaboration at skilled orientation of integrity of plant protection, educational training of professional and research meetings, lectures and in the future we want also to have more active collaboration with related domestic and international organisations.

The Society organises assembly meeting twice per year and this is also the time when recognized domestic and foreign experts present actualities from the plant protection field. In present form the Society works from 1995. Predecessor of today's PPSS was a Section for plant protection at Federation of agricultural engineers and technicians and this Section was also the organizer of the 1st Slovenian conference on plant protection in 1993. After that conferences followed in two year intervals. Organisation of Slovenian conferences on plant protection, which accounts to at least 220 participants, is the most important and at the same time most recognized form of PPSS activity. Introduction of results from national researches in the field of plant production is from the PPSS point of view understood as original promotion of science and at the same such events stimulate scientific-research and professional work of our members. At the 1st Slovenian conference on plant protection 35 participants were present and four of them were from abroad. At the following conferences number of contributions promptly increased till 94 (at the 4th Conference) and then stabilized between 90 and 120 presented lectures and posters. Foreign participants were present at all conferences and the most visited conference by foreigners was the 5th Slovenian conference on plant protection in Čatež when participants from 10 countries were present. In organizing till present conferences many different Slovene research, professional and advisory institutions from the field of agriculture were included and as such in broadening slovene knowledge from the field of plant protection helped Slovenian Institute for Hop Research and Brewing from Žalec, Agricultural Institute of Slovenia, Faculty of Agriculture and Life Sciences from Hoče, Chamber of Agriculture and Forestry of Slovenia – regional agricultural forestry institutions Nova Gorica and Maribor, Department of Agronomy of Biotechnical

Faculty and National Institute of Biology. From the beginning support in organising the conferences offer also phytopharmaceutical companies linked to crop protection and other companies which are directly or indirectly connected to plant protection. Their help is offered at forming the conference programme and also they participate as sponsors, supporters or donors to the conferences. From the beginning of the conferences the general sponsor was Ministry of agriculture, forestry and food processing of Republic of Slovenia and among more important ones are also Chamber of Agriculture and Forestry of Slovenia, Inspectorate of RS of Agriculture and the Environment and Slovenian Research Agency.

Since the beginning of the PPSS activities the Society has its office at Department of Agronomy of Biotechnical Faculty in Ljubljana from where also two so far existing society presidents are coming. The first society president was prof. emeritus Stojan Vrabl from Faculty of Agriculture in Maribor and who later succeeded by prof. dr. Lea Milevoj from Biotechnical Faculty. Third president was assist. prof. Gregor Urek from Agricultural Institute of Slovenia. Since 2006 the president of the Society is prof. dr. Stanislav Trdan from Biotechnical Faculty.

Since the 3rd Conference the Society impart recognitions to deserving members of the Society. At the opening ceremony of the Conference which is also more visited due to the attractive speakers, the Society gave away till now 11 golden badges, 27 silver badges and two honourable membership of the Society. The first badge is intended as a reward for life work in the field of plant protection, second one for the special merits in the field of plant protection and the last one for special merits in development nad successfull work in the Plant Protection Society of Slovenia.

During all eleven Conferences 986 contributions were given. From this amount 796 were oral (lectures) and 190 were poster presentations. Above mentioned contributions were presented from more than 600 (co) authors and from this around 300 were first authors and they also present the topics. PPSS has its web page (<http://dvrs.bf.uni-lj.si/>) and there visitors can find numerous information which are of interest to society members as also to others whose interest is in the field of plant protection. The society web page contains lectures and papers from the past conferences, information on aims and activities of the society, lectures from the society's annual meetings and many other and up to date information.