

PLANT PHYSIOLOGY FORUM

NEWS LETTER

No. 1

January 1985

Plant Physiology Forum (PPF), an organization of plant physiologists was formed on 27th May, 1983 when a number of Teachers, Students and Research workers of plant physiology and related disciplines met at the foot of Acharya Jagadis Chandra Bose's statue at the Bose Institute, Calcutta. The aim of the Forum was fixed to fulfill the lofty ideals of Acharya J. C. Bose, V the pioneer of plant physiology research in India, through promotion of research and teaching activities in plant physiology.

Activities of the Forum during the inaugural year (1983 - '84)

A. General Meetings / Lectures

DATE	VENUE	SPEAKER	TOPIC
24.6.83	Dept. of Botany	Prof. S. P. Sen Kalyani Univ.	Plant Physiology : today and tomorrow
12.8.83	College of Agril., Calcutta University	Dr. Asok Mukherjee Burdwan Univ. & Dr. S. Santra Presidency College	Methods of studying ribonucleoprotein. Some aspects of plants wasteland communities.
24.9.83	Presidency College, Calcutta	Prof. R. K. Mandal Bose Institute.	Problems and Prospects of Genetic Engineering.
22.2.84	Dept. of Botany, Calcutta Univ.	Dr. Susweta Biswas Bose Institute	Contractile Proteins in plant with special reference to Mimosa pudica & Dic- teostelium discoidium.
23.3.84	Bethune College, Calcutta	Prof. S. P. Saha, Kalyani University	Photophosphorylation

B. Seminar on Seed Germination, held 'on 21. 12. 83 at Indian Botanic Garden, Howrah.

SPEAKER	TITLE OF THE YEAR
Prof. S C. Datta Dept. of Botany, Cal. Univ..	Ecophysiology of seed germination in <i>Aegilops ovata</i> L.
Prof. R. N. Basu College of Agril. Cal. Univ.	Seed invigoration.
Dr. Bharati Ghosh Bose Institute,	Polyamines—their role in viability of seeds.
Dr. Swati Sen Mandi Bose Institute.	Studies on deteriorating seeds
Dr. J. Adhikari & Dr. A. Lahiri Mazumdar, Visva-Bharati, Santiniketan.	Interplay of enzymes related to inositol phosphate cycle in germinating seeds.
Dr. S. Kole & Dr. Kajal Gupta. Burdwan University.	Timing of physiological maturity of seeds of Sunflower: evaluation through multiple tests.

Dr. A. B. Kundu et al.
I. J. I. R. A., Calcutta.

Development of polythene lined special jute bag for jute seed storage.

Prof. B. B. Biswas
Bose Institute,

Metabolic cycle involving glucose-6-P and Myoinositol phosphate during ripening and germination of Mung Bean seeds.

The seminar was inaugurated by Dr. S. K. Jain, Director, Botanical Survey of India and was attended by a large number of Forum's members and other Botanists. M/s. Sutton & Sons pvt. Ltd., Calcutta sponsored the seminar. The seminar was a grand success.

C. A National Seminar on "Teaching Plant Physiology at the Undergraduate and Postgraduate Levels: Problems and Prospects" was organised at Sabitri Girls' College, Calcutta on 30. 4. 84. The seminar, first of this sort being held in India, was attended by a large number of Plant Physiology Teachers from West Bengal and other stations. The Key Note address was given by Prof. S. P. Sen, the President of the Forum and one of the senior-most Plant Physiology teachers of our country. The other speakers were: Prof. B. B. Biswas, Prof. C. P. Malik, Prof. S. N. Mathur, Prof. P. C. Tripathy, Prof. S. Mukherji, Prof. M. A. Choudhury, Dr. A. Lahiri Mazumdar, Dr. P. K. Sircar, Dr. M. K. Pasha, Dr. A. K. Mukherjee, Dr. Madhuri Roy, Dr. Maya Mitra, Dr. Jibes Guha, Dr. B. R. Mitra, Dr. A. Chatterjee and Dr. Padma Chatterjee. The speakers discussed threadbare the limitations and difficulties of teaching plant physiology at the colleges and universities in the morning and afternoon sessions. It was evident that limitations exist at all levels, the teachers, the taught, the course content, the methodology and planning of plant science teaching in the country. In the concluding session the major limitations were listed and several recommendations for overcoming them were made. The recommendations were subsequently circulated to many Botanists and educationists for their perusal and necessary action to implement them as far as possible.

D. Annual General Meeting was held on 6.7.84 at the Department of Botany, University of Calcutta. Prof. Sushil Kumar Mukherjee, Former Vice-Chancellor of Calcutta University very kindly addressed the members as Chief Guest. In his address he emphasized the need for strengthening the department of Plant Physiology in all Indian Universities for better understanding of the fundamental aspects of plant science. He also stressed the need for co-ordination among different disciplines for more comprehensive study of plant science. Prof. S. P. Sen in his Presidential Address spoke on 'Quality Research in Plant Physiology'. He reviewed the present day status of plant physiology research in India and stressed the need for quality research in true sense.

The following Executive Members and Office Bearers were elected unanimously for the two consecutive years 1984-85 and 1985-86.

President	Prof. S. P. Sen	Kalyani University
Vice-President	Prof. R. K. Mandal	Bose Institute
Vice-President	Prof. R. N. Basu	Calcutta University
Secretary	Dr. Pratip Palit	Jute Agril. Res. Institute
Treasurer	Dr. (Mrs.) B. Ghosh	Bose Institute
Member	Prof. P. C. Tripathy	Utkal University
"	Prof. S. Mukherji	Calcutta University
"	Dr. (Mrs.) Madhuri Roy	Bethune College, Calcutta
"	Dr. Jibes Guha	Surendranath College, Calcutta

”	Dr. .R. K. Chakraverty	Botanical Survey of India
”	Dr. Ashok K. Mukherjee	Burdwan University
”	Dr. A. N. Lahiri Mazumdar	Viswa-Bharati, Santiniketan
”	Prof. P. K. Basu	North Bengal University
”	Dr. P. K. Bandyopadhyay	B.C.K.V.V., Kalyani
”	Dr. Biswanath Ghosh	B.K.C. College, Calcutta

FORUM NEWS

As in the previous year the Forum is giving more emphasis on regular meetings of the members for better understanding among themselves & with fellow colleagues in the other disciplines. In such meetings senior and young colleagues are discussing their research and teaching activities. Eminent Scientists from abroad like Dr. J. A. Thompson, Department of Agriculture, Australia was also invited to give a talk on 'Production technology and Quality control of Legume Inoculants' on 27th September 1984 at the Lecture theatre of College of Agriculture, Calcutta University.

It has been decided that during the current year apart from holding a National Symposium of Physiology of Crop Yield, a refreshers' course for the Plant Physiology teachers at the undergraduate level will be arranged during the summer vacation.

Some Special Activities and Honours of the Members of the Forum

Prof. S. P. Sen acted as the President of the Botany Section of the 72nd Session of the Indian Science Congress Association held at Lucknow in January 1985. His Presidential Address was on "Origin and Evolution of Life : Some Unanswered Questions". On that occasion a Symposium on Molecular Aspects of Plant Life was held.

Prof. B. B. Biswas has been elected as the President of the Society for Plant Physiology and Biochemistry.

Prof. S. P. Sen delivered P. Parija Memorial Lecture in August, 1984 at Utkal University, Bhubaneswar.

The Department of Botany, Kalyani University has been chosen as Centre for Special Assistance with Molecular Botany as major thrust area. Prof. S. P. Sen is the Programme Co-ordinator.

Members are invited to contribute to the News Letter in the form of Research/Teaching Notes, Outstanding Science News, Reports of National and International Scientific Meetings on Plant Physiology and related areas and other suggestions. They are also requested to submit small write-ups about the Research Teaching activities in their laboratories and Institutions.

Edited by Prof. R. K. Mandal, Bose Institute and Prof. S. Mukherji, Calcutta University, published by Dr. P. Palit, Secretary, PPF and printed by Sri B. Modak at 29/2, Beniatola Iane, Calcutta-9