



Floriconnect

Newsletter of the Indian Society of Ornamental Horticulture

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Society on the Net

The Society would soon launch its official website. The web domain (www.isoindia.com) has already been registered and the homepage is under construction. The Society invites suggestions and material for uploading.

Message

Floriconnect continues its journey. We at the Secretariat continue with our efforts to bring you news and views on floriculture. Our sources are limited. If we all join hands and chip in with information on what happened in your region to further promote this sector, like a seminar, workshop, etc., or what new interesting item related to floriculture you read recently, and the like, we would have contributed to improving the knowledge base of all those who read the Newsletter. Share the information in the form of a small note with pictures, if available, or inform us about any forthcoming event, so that we can plan some reporting and educate everyone.



N.K. Dadlani
Secretary

The Newsletter was also planned to receive suggestions from members on how to improve our activities and add value to Society's contribution to floriculture development in the country. Please send in your opinion. Feel free to criticize, if what is being done fails to meet your expectations, but also suggest ways to correct.

We couldn't execute our proposed activity schedule. The meetings on anthuriums and flower seeds announced in the ISOH Calendar in the inaugural issue, couldn't be organized as the hosts expressed difficulties in organizing the logistics and generating sponsorships for the proposed events, largely due to the fact that timing coincided with financial year ending, which kept our members with administrative responsibilities and the prospective sponsors busy. Can we have some proposals?

The Society is proposing to organize a National Seminar on 'Nilgiris: the next floriculture hot spot for India' in collaboration with Department of Horticulture, Govt. of Tamil Nadu. The Seminar is being planned for mid May at Ooty, as the Society's tribute to Late Dr.B.P.Pal in his birth centenary year. Details will be communicated to you, once finalized.

Looking forward to your inputs. Stay connected.

N.K. Dadlani

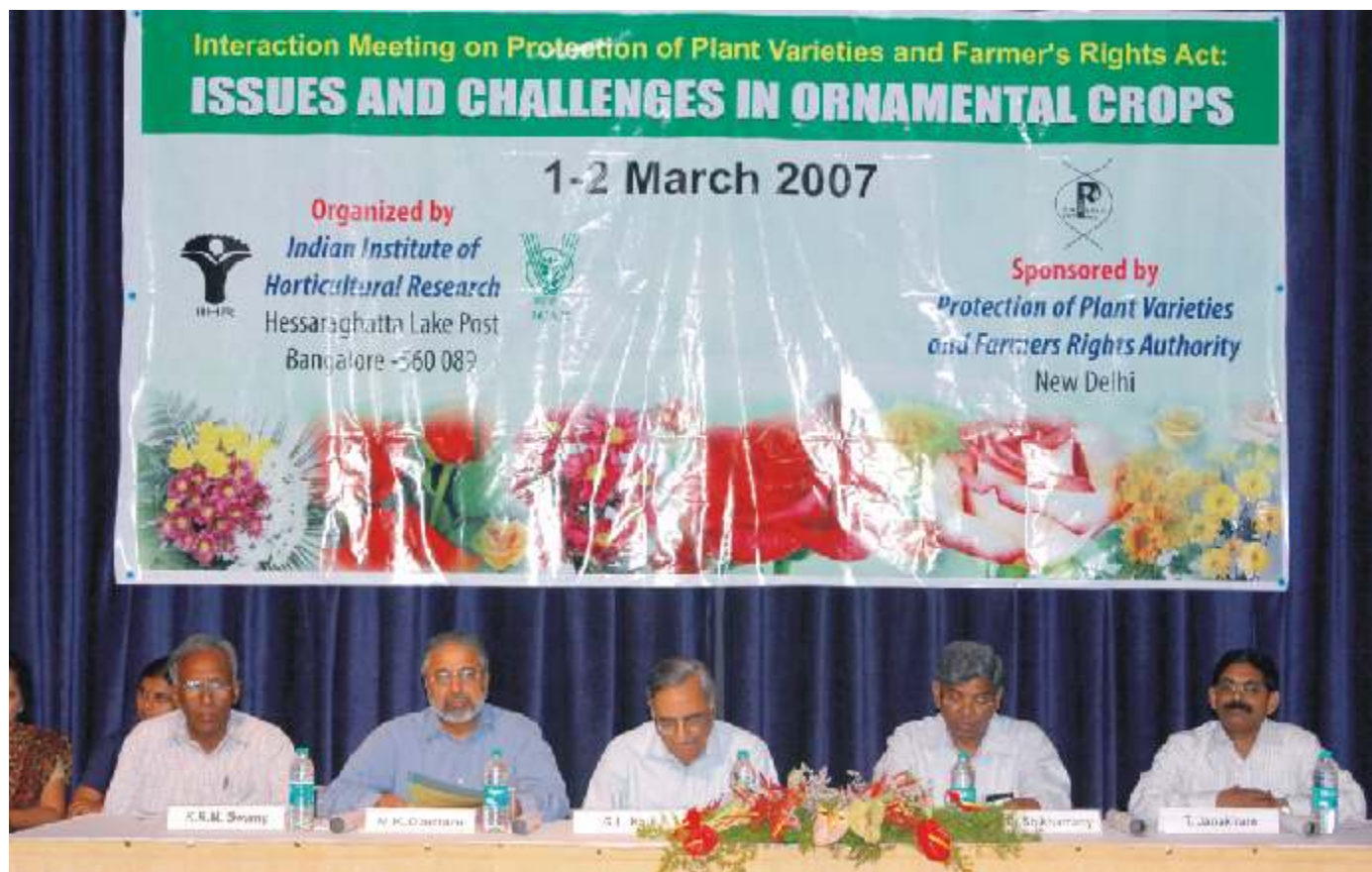
Interaction Meeting on Protection of Plant Varieties and Farmer's Rights Act

Proceedings and Recommendations of Brainstorming Session, IIHR, Bangalore

The Indian Institute of Horticultural Research, Bangalore organized a two days **Interaction meeting on "Protection of Plant Varieties and Farmers Rights Act: Issues and Challenges in Ornamental Crops"** on 1st and 2nd March 2007 at its campus. The Interaction Meeting was sponsored by 'Protection of

Plant Varieties and Farmers Rights Authority, New Delhi. The basic objective of the meeting was to discuss protection of plant varieties and farmers rights act / plant breeders rights / IPR and other issues of ornamental crops, protection of ornamental crops varieties of Indian origin, creating awareness about the protection of

plant varieties and farmers rights act. Dr. G.L. Kaul, Chairman, DUS Taskforce on Ornamental Crops and former Vice-Chancellor, AAU inaugurated the meeting. Dr. N.K. Dadlani, Member, DUS Taskforce on Ornamental Crops was the Guest of Honour. More than 100 participants representing ICAR Institutes, State Agricultural



Dr.K.R.M.Swamy, Dr.N.K.Dadlani, Dr.G.L.Kaul, Dr.S.D.Shikhamany and Dr.T.Janakiram (from left to right on the Dias during the interaction meeting).

Universities, Nurserymen, Florists, Private and Public Companies, Traders, Developmental Agencies, NGO's etc., participated in the deliberations. Various issues like Plant Breeders Right, IPR's, Farmers Rights on varieties particularly in Ornamental Crops, problems in export of Ornamental Crops, public private partnership in export of flowers etc., were deliberated in two technical sessions during meeting. A special discussion meeting for finalization of DUS Test Guidelines for Ornamental Crops was also held. The house discussed various important issues and came out with recommendations for future use.

Dr. K.R.M. Swamy, Head, Division of Vegetable Crops and Programme Co-ordinator extended welcome to the participants. Dr. S.D.

Shikhamany, Director, IIHR presided over the meeting. Dr. T .Janakiram, Senior Scientist and Co-coordinator of the event proposed vote of thanks.

Based on the presentations made and discussions held during the **Plenary Session**, the following **recommendations were made:**

1. India is loosing in the absence of protection mechanism as the international breeders are reluctant to provide the latest varieties.
2. Database regarding protected varieties / patented varieties in major floriculture crops on which breeding is being carried out in India and have commercial importance will be brought out by the Task Force. Task force may seek clarification from PPV&FR Authority regarding

their stand on EDVs and this will help the breeders in utilizing the exotic varieties in crop improvement programme.

3. The research organizations need to complete some formalities such as benefit sharing, signing of MOU etc., prior to utilizing the protected varieties for breeding programmes.
4. The PPV& FR Authority should make efforts to publish the brochure to create awareness among farmers, exporters, breeders and others. The brochure can be translated into local languages. Interactive meeting may be conducted in Eastern and western regions to create awareness.
5. Prioritization of crops for developing DUS test guidelines

was suggested. Accordingly the crops have been prioritized as follows.

- i) Gladiolus
 - ii) Jasmine
 - iii) Tuberose
 - iv) Bougainvillea
 - v) Crossandra
 - vi) China Aster
6. For other important ornamental crops, DUS test guidelines should be developed by PPV & FR Authority/ICAR/SAUs.
 7. Important local varieties of jasmine like Mysore mallige, Udipi mallige and Hadagali mallige, need to be protected.

New Research

There is insufficient information on the importance of silicon (Si) to the cultivation of ornamental plants. The Si argument appears trapped in the scientific community because of the complex and dynamic characteristics of both silicon chemistry and its interaction with plant growth.

Intensive floricultural production, especially under greenhouse conditions, puts plants under stress. Plants are forced to be more productive and grow faster (also in line with modern energy saving protocols). Such stress often results in a shortage of silicic acid (SiA) caused by inadequate turgor pressure to pull up water and minerals to the growing points.

Effects of Silicon on plants

- If the young stretching cells lack SiA, the resulting plant tissue will be highly susceptible to collapse under conditions of high turgor pressure.
- The strengthening of the leaf cuticle by Si provides increased resistance to disease (more

National Seminar

Nilgiris: The Next Floriculture hotspot for India

The Indian Society of Ornamental Horticulture,

as a tribute to the memory of Dr. B.P. Pal, is organizing a National Seminar on 17-18 May 2007 at Hotel Holiday Inn, Ooty, as part of the celebrations of 'Dr. B.P. Pal Birth Centenary'. The National Seminar is being organized in



collaboration with the Department of Horticulture, Govt. of Tamil Nadu and Tamil Nadu Agriculture University, Coimbatore.

Some potential effects of SiA

Some potential effects of SiA	
<i>Cut flowers</i>	
Roses	Leaves -thicker, tougher, brighter green Increased stem length Improved rooting of cuttings Improved natural resistance to powdery mildew (<i>Sphaerotheca pannosa</i> var. <i>rosa</i>), black spot (<i>Diplocarpon rosae</i>) and botrytis (<i>Botrytis cinerea</i>)
<i>Chrysanthemum</i> spp.	Reduced incidence of leaf-miner (<i>Liomyza trifolii</i>)
Orchids (<i>Cattleya</i> spp.)	Improved initiation of flower spikes
Orchids (<i>Dendrobium</i> spp.)	Increased dry weight, greater leaf thickness
Sunflower (<i>Helianthemum annum</i>)	Stronger leaves
Nursery stock	
Lilac (<i>Syringa</i>)	Growth stopped by heavy dose rate of SSiA +Boron
Pot plants	
Saintpaulia ionantha	Increased natural resistance to powdery mildew (<i>Oidium</i>)
Begonia spp.	Improved growth and development when clay added to peat substrate Strengthening of stock-plants and cutting material grown in winter
Kalanchoe	Black flowers due to petal collapse overcome by applying Si
<i>Aechmea fascita, Spathiphyllum, Calathea makoyana, Liriope muscari, Nephrolepis exaltata, Chlorophytum comosum, Asparagus setaceus, Anthurium scherzerianum, Bambusa glaucescens, Agave Americana, Chamaedorea elegans, Codiaeum variegatum, Howea fosteriana, Schefflera actinophylla, Syngonium podophyllum</i>	Increased dry weight, greater leaf thickness and strength (IFAS, University of Florida)

Source: Edward Bent, horticultural consultant, Bergamo, Italy

difficult penetration of spores) and is a deterrent to insect attack.

- In many cases Si will enable plants to use fertilizers, fungicides and insecticides more efficiently in lower quantities.
- Leaching of nutrients such as phosphorus and potassium will be reduced.

Mode of application

SiA is applied together with an appropriate spreading agent at a time of day when the liquid will not dry off too quickly from the leaf surface. The SiA is released and absorbed directly into the leaf tissue and growing points and thereafter conducted and utilized where needed.

Mode of action

In the soil, SiA is released in small quantities through the acidification of silicates by carbonic acid produced by the respiration of soil microorganisms, insect larvae and by weak organic acids and enzymes produced by plant roots and microorganisms. In ordinary soils SiA is usually present at levels of about 50-400 ppm. Small quantities are usually present in surface water (effectively removed when water is filtered and treated) and in decomposing debris from plants growing in soil.

In the course of evolution it seems that Si accumulating abilities in plants have been preserved as beneficial to

survival; in protecting the reproductive phase, in providing structural strength and enabling natural defence mechanisms against attack by diseases, insects and herbivores. Si is also involved in mechanisms that increase the tolerance of plants to environmental stress; drought, extreme temperatures etc. and the accumulation of heavy metals that would otherwise be toxic. In this way, the environmental reach and survival of plants is improved.

Several results observed in SiA experiments and commercial trials are reported. However, the extent of the improvement is not quantified, but is substantial in most cases.

Global Warming: Daffodils may die out in 50 years

No more shall my heart with pleasure fill and dance with daffodils? Traditional springtime flowering bulbs could die out within 50 years because they will be unable to cope with higher temperatures caused by global warming. A report published predicts the flowering period of daffodils bluebells and snowdrops will get shorter and shorter until they disappear for good. Other species at risk from rising temperatures include the English rose and beech, horses chestnut and oak trees, which could be replaced by more exotic species such as olive and palm trees. The study commissioned by UKTV and carried out by scientists led by David Viner of the University of East Anglia predicts that temperatures in Britain will increase by an average of 4°C over the next 50 years. This could have a devastating effect, the report warns.

The political leadership woke up in India recently to initiate a debate in the Parliament during May 2007 to discuss the ultimatum issued by the UN to address the issue as the world has only 8 years to initiate the measure to curtail the global warming. A two degree increase in temperature, it is predicted that, the rice and wheat production would be reduced considerably to threaten the nutritional security of our country. If such trend continues in floriculture the aesthetic security would also be at stake.

Global standards in Floriculture Need of the Hour

An industry-wide initiative to create product identification standards for the global, floral supply chain is being led by key trade associations who are urging floral industry growers, importers, wholesalers, supermarkets, mass markets, and transporters to arrive at consensus on June 5-6, 2007 in Miami, Florida, USA. The

participants include the Produce Marketing Association, Floral Logistics Coalition, Wholesale Florist and Florist Supplier Association, Association of Floral Importers of Florida, California Association of Flower Growers and Shippers, California Cut Flower Commission, ASOCOLFLORES, and the international standards organization, GS1.

Representatives from both the supermarket and wholesale markets will address the industry's immediate need for creating product identification standards for bouquets, cut flowers and greens. The standards will directly affect how floral products are ordered, invoiced, tracked, and categorized. By first adopting uniform product

identification standards, floral supply chain members can now embrace the technologies that will dramatically improve the supply chain. Utilizing such technologies as RFID, barcodes, and electronic commerce will increase collaboration with trading partners, automate manual activities, increase visibility throughout the supply chain, cut costs, provide better control and quality of product, and greater profitability for supply chain members. The results of the June meeting will form the basis of a pilot program to study the implementation of the product identification standards using Global Trade Identification Numbers (GTINs) on orders, invoices, and boxes of floral products. The pilot is expected to commence later this summer and will take place over a six-month period.

Such new initiatives would be of enormous significance when adopted in India as a number of corporate houses are foraying in to retail chains across the country primarily focusing on fruits and vegetables with every likelihood of diversifying in to flowers in near future.

Sustainable Floriculture and Social Responsibility

The floriculture industry is not about production and marketing of various floriculture production only. A special programme being implemented by Asocolflores - The Colombian Association of Flower Growers, has opened up a new dimension of social responsibility. Supported by USAID and other agencies, it has revitalized flower farms and entire townships.

Cultivating peace in the family: The programme started in 1999 seeks to change attitudes and promote peaceful resolution of conflicts inside families. Relying on simple methods like group discussions and workshops, specially trained 'mediators' work directly with the families of flower farm workers. The programme which had covered 30,000 workers till 2004 and is expected to cover another 21,000 by 2007, was nominated for the 'National peace prize of Colombia' in 2001.

DayCare Centres: In association with Colombian Institute of Family welfare, Ascolflores has worked to improve conditions for the children of flower workers. Nearly 20,000 children from the flower growing areas around Bogota and Medellin (which together account for 97% of flower production in Colombia) presently benefit from this program.

The school of Floriculture: This initiative beginning in September 2003 was created to help families displaced from their original homes by the violence affecting Colombia. Young people (18-25 years old), single mothers and handicapped men and women, are trained for one year to learn the basics of growing flowers for export, with a three month internship at participating farm. After training at the School of Floriculture, these individuals have access to jobs in the floriculture sector and a better life.



Year Planner 2007

The Society published a 'Year Planner 2007' to plan your yearly schedules. Perhaps, a first effort by any scientific society. The colourful Planner, sponsored by KF Bioplants, Pune, a leading floriculture planting material source, was very much appreciated by the members. The Planner was first distributed at the 'National Symposium on Bulbous Ornamental Crops', organized by the Society at Modipuram in December 2006, and has also been sent by post to all members of the Society. If not received by any member, another copy can be obtained from the Society Secretariat.

International Events during May-July 2007

May 2007

4 to 21, Canada

Canadian Tulip Festival, Ottawa. Tel: (1) 613 567 5757;
Fax: (1) 613 567 6216; info@tulipfestival.ca;
www.tulipfestival.ca

22 March to 20 May, The Netherlands

Keukenhof Holland, Lisse. Tel: (31) 252 465 555;
Fax: (31) 252 465 565; info@keukenhof.nl;
www.keukenhof.nl

22 to 26, United Kingdom

RHS Chelsea Flower Show, Royal Hospital, Chelsea, London SW3. www.rhs.org.uk

June 2007

3 to 5, Czech Republic

Flora Profi, 3rd International Trade Fair, Fair Ground Flora Olomouc. Tel: (420) 585 411 275 or (420) 585 726 257; info@flora-ol.cz

6 to 7, The Netherlands

Aalsmeer Summer Sale, Aalsmeer. www.aalsmeer.com

6 to 12, Ethiopia & Kenya

US Flower Buyer Mission to Africa. Tel: (31) 2 662 2482;
Fax: (31) 2 675 2326; melvin@hpp.nl; www.hpp.nl

12 to 15, United States

Super Floral Show, Columbus, Ohio.
Tel: (1) 207 842 5508; Fax: (1) 207 842 5509;
www.superfloralshow.com

8 to 10, Ireland

Garden Show Ireland, Lisburn. Tel: (44) 28 9756 1993;
Fax: (44) 28 9756 5073; info@gardenshowireland.com;
www.gardenshowireland.com

11 to 15, Portugal

VI International Symposium on New Floriculture Crops, Funchal, Madeira Island, Portugal. Tel: (351) 291 920 125; Fax: (351) 291 922 511; nfc2007@gov-madeira.pt;
www.sra.pt/nfc2007

13 to 15, The Netherlands

Flower Trials of pot plants and bedding plants, Aalsmeer and Westland Region. www.flowertrials.nl

13 to 16, Brazil

Hortitec. www.hortitec.com.br

July, 2007

7 to 11, United States

American Institute of Floral Designers (AIFD) National Symposium, Desert Spring J.W. Marriott Resort & Spa, Palm Desert, California. www.aifd.org

14 to 17, United States

OFA Short Course, Columbus, Ohio. Tel: (1) 614 487 1117; Fax: (1) 614 487 1216; ofa@ofa.org; www.ofa.org



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