

Successful 26th IWGO Conference in Beijing, China

The 26th IWGO conference successfully took place in the National Agricultural Library of the Chinese Academy of Agricultural Sciences (CAAS) in Beijing from 10-12 April 2017. It was organized by the IWGO Co-Convenor Dr Wang Zhenying from the Institute of Plant Protection (IPP) of CAAS. Overall, 98 experts from 11 countries participated – a similar attendance to the last IWGO meeting in Chicago, U.S.A., which was locally organized by the Co-Convenor, Dr Tom Sappington, USDA-ARS, Ames, Iowa. Eight of the participants were young researchers who received the IOBC Global Travel Award and each of them presented excellent overviews of their research.

IWGO convenor, Dr Ulrich Kuhlmann, gave a welcome address as did Dewen Qiu, Deputy Director General of IPP-CAAS and Dongxing Feng, Director General, Department of International Collaboration of CAAS. The programme featured 11 scientific sessions with 52 oral presentations and 9 poster presentations covering a range of interrelated topics. Many of the presentations were given by leading experts in the field, many of whom were Chinese, which further fostered collaboration opportunities. “Maize pests are a serious problem for farmers across the world and IWGO has contributed through its members to finding solutions to these problems for many years, particularly through promoting biologically-based integrated management options,” said Dr Kuhlmann in his opening remarks. “We were therefore pleased to have this year’s conference in China and were delighted with the exciting line up of presentations,” he added. “These set the scene for some interesting and valuable discussions. Sharing knowledge in this way helps the agricultural research community to address both current and future pest problems. For example, it is essential that we share our research results if we are to effectively address the problem of fall armyworm, a devastating maize pest which is currently spreading across Africa.”

Victor Clotey from CABI, Ghana, was invited by the IWGO conference organizers to deliver a keynote presentation about the current spread and limited number of management options for the fall armyworm. In response, the IOBC global working group launched a subgroup under IWGO focussing on the fall armyworm, the new invader in Africa – similar to the response to the western corn rootworm invasion in Europe in the 1990s. The overall objective of this new subgroup is to establish an independent, internationally recognized platform for the exchange of research results, experiences and ideas on the integrated pest management of fall armyworm. As a first action, the first subgroup meeting will be organized in Ghana or Kenya in early spring 2018 with strong regional participation. IWGO will recruit fall armyworm experts who have been dealing with this pest for many years in other parts of the world to attend and share existing pest management knowledge.

In accord with a longstanding tradition, the *Journal of Applied Entomology* has again offered the opportunity to publish manuscripts on selected presentations during the 26th IWGO Conference in a special issue. A printed version will be available in mid-2018 as long as deadlines are met. This would also nicely mark the 50th anniversary of IWGO!

The 27th IWGO conference will be hosted in Switzerland and will take place in September/October 2019. Please mark this in your agendas!



26th IWGO Conference participants from North America, Europe, Asia, South America and Africa, with above-average attendance by scientists from China (photo: CAAS, Beijing)



The opening ceremony was chaired by IWGO Co-Convenor Dr Wang Zhenying. Dr Dewen Qiu, Deputy Director General of IPP-CAAS and Dr Dongxing Feng, Director General, Department of International Collaboration of CAAS, gave a welcome address as did IWGO Convenor, Dr Ulrich Kuhlmann. IWGO Co-Convenor Dr Tom Sappington is on the far right (photo: KCS, Delémont)



Westen R. Archibald, Julie Peterson, Debora Montezano, Rebecca Schmidt-Jeffris, Pamela Bruno and Geoffrey Jaffuel (from left to right) received the IOBC Global Travel Fund. Not pictured: Yu Chen, and Haicui Xie who also benefited from the IOBC Global Travel Fund (photo: KCS, Delémont)



Ulli Kuhlmann, Victor Clottey, Tom Sappington and Wang Zhenyeng (from left to right). Victor Clottey has agreed to help facilitate the new IWGO subgroup on the fall armyworm until the first meeting takes place in Africa early spring 2018 (photo: KCS, Delémont)