EDITORIAL

Editorial to special issue on “Advances in *Fusarium* Research”

M. Anandaraj^{1,2}

© Indian Phytopathological Society 2020

Dear Readers,

The executive committee of Indian Phytopathological Society has decided to bring out a Special issue of Indian Phytopathology for Volume 72 (2019) on the topic “Advances in *Fusarium* Research”. Though it was planned to bring it early during the year it could materialize now only.

Fusarium is one of the important plant pathogens on agricultural and horticultural crops: causes wilts, rots and blights. Being predominantly soilborne, management strategies are too difficult and often ineffective. Considering the importance of this pathogen, the Indian Council of Agricultural Research (ICAR) has been formulating and funding network projects at periodic intervals. The latest being the one on three major pathogens namely “The Outreach Project on *Phytophthora*, *Fusarium* and *Ralstonia* of Horticultural and Field Crops (PhytoFuRa) involving researchers from about 20 participating centres with ICAR- Indian Institute of Spices Research as the lead centre during XI and XII 5-year plan periods. Several leading plant pathologists who are also guest editors of the special issue were involved in the project.

The special issue has 16 articles, with eight reviews and eight research articles. Out of eight review articles, three are on various aspects on rice and one each on wheat, castor, chick pea, guava and on crops in the North Eastern India. Most of the review articles have an exhaustive coverage of

the history of the disease, symptomatology, epidemiology, locating resistance, developing methodology for screening, understanding the mechanism of resistance, evolving resistant varieties and developing an integrated management strategy. The major crops covered are wheat, rice, lentil, chickpea, castor, guava, tomato and marigold.

As the special issue is on *Fusarium*, besides wilt pathogen *Fusarium oxysporum* with host specific *formae specialis*, information pertaining to nine more species are also included. The Special issue identifies research gaps and suggest future lines of work. The advancements in newer tools and technologies available now for the researchers are likely aid to understand the host–pathogen interactions better and deploy resistant genes or interfere with the host–pathogen interaction thereby reducing the disease. Small interfering RNAs would go a long way in developing management strategy.

The editorial team along with the guest editors have made tremendous efforts to bring the special issue for volume 72 of Indian Phytopathology. I would like to thank all the authors, reviewers, editorial team, guest editors, business manager and the executive of Indian Phytopathological Society for all their support and services.

Dr. M. Anandaraj,
Chief Editor.

✉ M. Anandaraj
arajiisr@gmail.com

¹ Indian Phytopathological Society, New Delhi, India

² Bangalore, India