REPORT FROM ENTOMOLOGY COMMITTEE

ISSCT ENTOMOLOGY SECTION REPORT

The major activity of the Entomology Section Committee was the Third Entomology Workshop, which was held February 2-7, 1997 in Culiacan, Mexico. All Committee members attended and actively participated in moderating most of the sessions. Committee members were Graeme Leslie (South Africa), Jun D. Samoedi (Indonesia), Afzale Rajabalee (Mauritius), Wiwat Suasa-ard (Thailand), and Omelio Sosa, Jr. (USA) Chairman. Previous workshops were held in Florida USA (1991), and South Africa (1994).

The Zucarmex Group, a private consortium, and the Mexican Association of Sugar Cane Technologists sponsored the workshop. Hotel San Marcos in Culiacan was the workshop venue. About 120 persons representing 12 countries attended the workshop. Format consisted of short formal presentation followed by a question and answer period, and a general discussion at the end of each session. Audience participation was encouraged by the format style used. Topics covered were: 1) soil insects; 2) sucking insects; 3) stalk borers; 4) cane burning and its effects on borers; 5) rodents; 6) pheromones/insect trapping and 7) new technologies in pest control. Participants were taken on a field trip on the third day to visit the INIFAF research farm, two commercial cane fields, La Primavera sugar mill, and three stops highlighting the tomato industry of the state of Sinaloa.

The sponsors and hosts should be congratulated for conducting a successful workshop. Workshops provided an excellent forum for the exchange of information and experiences among sugarcane entomologists. Thailand expressing their interest in hosting the next workshop submitted a proposal. A decision on the next workshop venue will be decided during the next ISSCT Congress in India.

During the workshop, I called a meeting to discuss the revision of the book “Pests of Sugar Cane”. Those present at that meeting were Graeme Leslie (South Africa), Jun D. Samoedi (Indonesia), Afzale Rajabalee (Mauritius), Wiwat Suasa-ard (Thailand), Peter Allsopp (Australia), and a few others. During my tenure as Chairman, this is a project that I was promoting. I felt that there is so much new information and technology available, that the ISSCT should take the lead in bringing this book up to date. Unfortunately, I cannot continue to lead this effort since I retired from my job and have taken new responsibilities in a non-related area. However, I strongly encourage the new Entomology Section Committee to pursue the needed revision of this excellent book.

In a sad note, I regret to inform our colleagues that Dr. Jun D. Samoedi (Indonesia) died in December 1998 of heart attack. Jun was a member of the Entomology Section Committee and will be sadly missed by his colleagues.

Respectfully submitted,

Omelio Sosa, Jr., Ph.D.
ISSCT Entomology Section Chairman