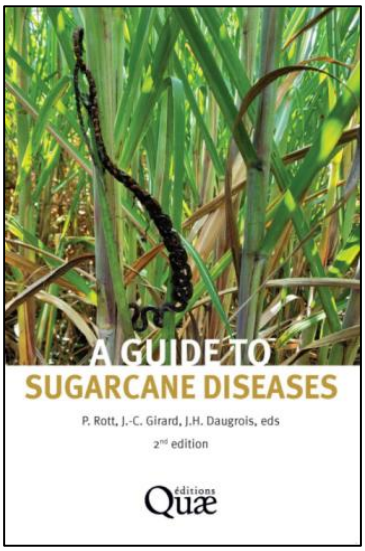
ISSCT Biology Commission- 2nd Pathology Section Webinar

29 October 2026 from 11 am to 1 pm GMT



The International Society of Sugar Cane Technologists (ISSCT) is pleased to invite you to its 2nd webinar in sugar cane Pathology which will take place on

29 October 2026 from 11 am to 1 pm GMT

Theme: *A Guide to Sugarcane Diseases – 2nd Edition*

Chaired by Shamsul Bhuiyan (Chair of ISSCT Pathology Section) with presentations as follows:

Presenter / Country / Organisation	Presentation Title	Duration
Dr. Jean Claude Autrey, General Secretary, ISSCT, Mauritius	Introduction	
Dr Philippe Rott, CIRAD, France	A guide to sugarcane diseases (2nd edition): a new book in sugar cane pathology	30/40 minutes
Q & A		5 minutes
Dr Shamsul Bhuiyan, Chair of ISSCT Pathology Section, Australia	Plant parasitic nematodes	15 minutes
Q & A		5 minutes
Dr. Sharon McFarlane, Member of the ISSCT Pathology Section, South Africa	Safe Movement of sugar cane germplasm	15 minutes
Q & A		5 minutes
Shamsul Bhuiyan, Philippe Rott, Sharon McFarlane and André Gama	General Discussions	15 minutes
Jean Claude Autrey	Conclusion	

The biodata of the presenters and the synopses are given below.

The facilitators/organizers are members of the ISSCT Pathology Section:

- Dr. Shamsul Bhuiyan, SRA, Australia
- Dr. Nawshad Joomun, MSIRI, Mauritius
- Dr. Sharon McFarlane, SASRI, South Africa
- Dr Andre Gama, LSU, USA
- Dr San-Ji Gao, Fujian Agriculture and Forestry University, China

Language
The Webinar will be conducted in English.

Registration
The Registration Form for the Webinar may be accessed through the following link:
https://us06web.zoom.us/meeting/register/QfulKhsDS4GMX3DRQIzbDg#/registration

The Webinar is open to ISSCT compliant members as well as to non-members.
Compliant Members
Compliant members are those who have already settled their membership dues for the period 2025-2028. For those who have not yet done so, they may settle their dues of USD 150 through the following link: https://members.issct.org/appform/issct_guatemala_2028.aspx

Non-Members
If a participant wishes to register for ONLY the webinar, he/she should settle a registration fee of USD 50 through the following link:
https://members.issct.org/webinar/overview.aspx

After having settled either your ISSCT membership dues or only the registration fee for the webinar, an e-mail with the meeting details (Username and Password to access the Webinar), will be sent to you.

Further information
For further information, please contact the ISSCT **Pathology Chair –** Shamsul Bhuiyan sbhuiyan@sugarresearch.com.au or the ISSCT Secretariat at issct@intnet.mu

ISSCT 2nd Pathology Section Webinar

Biodata of the presenters and the synopses

Speaker 1

Dr Philippe Rott (CIRAD, Montpellier, France)

Biodata

Philippe Rott is currently research director in plant pathology and the scientific Director of Cirad's sugar cane quarantine at the Plant Health Institute of Montpelier, France. He has over 40 years of experience in sugar cane pathology and has worked on bacterial, fungal and viral diseases. Philippe has also worked extensively in both laboratory and field research. He has produced over 200 scientific publications on sugar cane diseases including research papers, book chapters, and extension papers. He is the main editor of the book entitled "A guide to sugarcane diseases" published in 2000 and of the second edition of this book currently in press. During his career, Philippe performed expertise consultations in plant pathology in numerous countries in Africa, Asia, South America and the West Indies. He has been a member of ISSCT since 1988 and was awarded Honorary Life Membership in 2023.

A guide to sugarcane diseases (2nd edition): a new book in sugarcane pathology

The new edition of the book *A guide to sugarcane diseases* is a revised and updated version of the first edition published in 2000 by the International Society of Sugar Cane Technologists (ISSCT) and CIRAD, with the same objective of gathering practical and updated information in sugarcane pathology. During the last two decades, new diseases have developed and distribution of known diseases has expanded. Furthermore, significant progress was made in disease diagnosis with the emergence of powerful new molecular methods.

The book starts with an introductory chapter on sugarcane morphology, anatomy and physiology. This latter is followed by chapters on diseases caused by various pathogens i.e., bacteria, fungi and fungus-like organisms, viruses, and even a newly reported protozoan that causes chlorotic streak. The book also contains a chapter on diseases of uncertain etiology and a chapter on plant-parasitic nematodes. The procedures for the safe movement of sugarcane germplasm and the common names of sugarcane diseases and their causal agent(s) have been updated, as well as the listing of the sugarcane producing countries and their diseases.

Forty-one experts contributed to this new edition that is expected to become a useful new resource for plant pathologists, the sugarcane community at large, and all people interested in this subject.

Speaker 2

Dr Shamsul Bhuiyan (SRA, Australia)

Biodata

Shamsul Bhuiyan is the Manager of the Biosecurity and Disease Screening Program at Sugar Research Australia (SRA). He is a plant pathologist with more than 25 years of professional experience, including over 18 years specialising in sugarcane pathology. Shamsul has extensive expertise in both field- and laboratory-based research and has authored nearly 100 scientific publications, including peer-reviewed journal articles, conference proceedings, and book chapters. His research has made significant contributions to the management of sugarcane diseases, particularly in the areas of chemical disease control, resistant variety, and soilborne pathogen management. He pioneered research into nematode resistance in sugarcane and developed several of the screening methods now used in the industry. Shamsul currently serves as Chair of the ISSCT Pathology Section and is a Senior Editor of the *Sugar Tech* journal.

Plant parasitic nematodes

Plant-parasitic nematodes are major pathogens of sugarcane in most sugarcane-growing countries. Yield losses of up to 20% have been reported due to nematode infection. Because symptoms are often undefined, infections are frequently misdiagnosed as nutrient deficiency, soil toxicity or compaction, or other biotic or abiotic stresses. The situation is further complicated by the lack of, or very limited, varietal resistance to parasitic nematodes, particularly for root lesion nematodes (Pratylenchus spp). Shamsul will provide an overview of the newly written Chapter, Parasitic nematodes, and discuss new research and development in the management of plant-parasitic nematodes of sugarcane.

Speaker 3

Dr Sharon McFarlane

Biodata

Sharon McFarlane is a Plant Pathologist at the South African Sugarcane Research Institute (SASRI). She specialises in sugarcane disease diagnosis, monitoring, and management, working with the Extension and Biosecurity teams to develop practical solutions that improve crop health and support grower productivity.

Safe Movement of sugar cane germplasm

Sharon will provide an overview of the revised chapter, “Procedures for the Safe Movement of Sugarcane Germplasm,” and will discuss the development of a new, comprehensive ISSCT resource to support the safe and effective exchange of sugarcane germplasm.