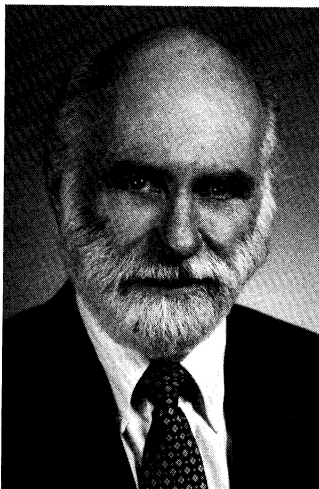


Volunteers for International Service

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"American plant pathologists are organized for international cooperation, especially for collaboration and projects with scientists and societies from developing countries." Those words are from the APS Office of International Programs (OIP) brochure describing the activities of an organization of volunteers committed primarily to facilitating volunteer action. I've found APS pathologists to be aware of their connections around the world and interested in fostering science and personal

relations. Most are already involved in some aspect of international service. This editorial points out some of the areas where plant pathologists are donating their time, talents, and resources. Perhaps it will help you to expand your service.

Sharing our publications with libraries in developing countries is a popular APS international activity. One of the ways to help libraries is with donations of personal publications. These donations are facilitated by the OIP Library Assistance Committee. Since this committee was organized by Hugh Sisler, there have been donations to over 60 institutions in 36 countries. The cochairmen of the Library Assistance Committee, Lawrence Datnoff and Art Lamey, have a stack of requests from libraries in need of agricultural publications and a procedure for shipment with a minimum of expense to the donor. The United Nations Food and Agricultural Organization (UNFAO) has provided the OIP with grants to help defray shipping expenses. Some of the donated publications qualify for charitable tax deductions. Details of donating are available from Datnoff and Lamey.

Another way to share publications is through collaboration with the American Association for the Advancement of Science (AAAS) program of journal distribution in sub-Saharan Africa. The lack of hard currency has made it virtually impossible for Africans to subscribe to professional journals, thus crippling research and teaching. Society members who no longer wish to receive current journals may designate that they be sent to an agricultural library in Africa. APS is now sending 45 donated copies of *PLANT DISEASE* and also copies of *Phytopathology* each month to AAAS where they are distributed in a much larger program funded by the Carnegie Corporation, Ford Foundation, and U.S. Agency for International Development (USAID). More than 200 journals are provided to 230 libraries in 38 African countries (over 3,500 subscriptions). An integral part of this AAAS Journal Distribution Program is the establishment of United States/Africa partnerships where libraries pay in local currency 10-50% of a U.S. individual member subscription for the journals they receive. The funds finance professional activities in Africa. You may wish to encourage other societies in which you have some influence to join this AAAS program. Donate your subscriptions through APS.

Contributions to purchase new publications are greatly needed. Several individuals and the Potomac Division have designated donations for this purpose. The first APS Foundation Award purchased APS publications for libraries on three continents; this year's award purchases APS publications for 10 libraries. The OIP is encouraging departments to adopt a library in a developing country so that more direct attention can be given to keeping that library up-to-date. A more personal approach is called International Scientific Partners. Out of a mutual need for cooperative activity, teams of scientists (as few as two) find creative ways to share resources between developed and developing countries. On a more anonymous level, APS members may wish to contribute to a Gift Membership fund. This incubating program needs volunteers to help deserving scientists with relatively low incomes benefit from APS membership.

Facilitating placement of APS members in short-term and career opportunities in developing countries is another OIP activity. Career placement is a function of the APS Headquarters Operations and Placement committees. They need help and information to identify opportunities. In addition, most universities and development organizations are looking for the right scientists to serve. In the spirit of volunteerism, scientists on well-paid short-term assignments may wish to donate a percentage of their fees or honoraria to a specific project or to the APS Foundation, with a designation for service to developing countries.

The U.S. government uses volunteers in the Peace Corps in the "toughest job you will ever love." The Peace Corps is not just for kids. Senior, technically trained volunteers in agriculture and plant protection are eagerly sought. Traditional tours of duty are for 2 years, but the Volunteer Partner Program now makes it possible for highly skilled professionals to volunteer for shorter (3-18 months) assignments. For more information call 1-800-424-8580.

For 30-90 day opportunities, there is the Volunteers in Overseas Cooperative Assistance (VOCA), a private, nonprofit organization supported by USAID. VOCA sends highly qualified professionals (including those in plant protection) abroad to provide short-term assistance to developing countries upon request. VOCA was born out of the belief that Americans would voluntarily share their experience and expertise with their counterparts in developing countries to help them improve their standards of living. For more information call (202) 626-8750.

To help individuals and organizations identify aids in plant protection, the OIP is preparing an *International Guide to APS Resources in Plant Pathology*. The guide will contain information about plant health training, academic opportunities, kits, publications, slides, networking, communications, and scientific resources appropriate for students and scientists in or from developing countries. Your information, ideas, and help are welcomed by Joseph Krausz, Texas A&M University, 118 Peterson Building, College Station, TX 77843, (409) 845-8032.

Although the OIP exists to facilitate international service, each scientist is challenged to develop her or his own area of service for agriculture and food production in developing countries. If the OIP can be of help or you want to help the OIP, please let us know.