Dear colleagues and friends

Specials thanks to the organizers for giving me the excellent chance to speak about a topic directly related to the future of our sciences, to the future of our profession.

It is a real honour for me to open with a plenary lecture the 13 th MPU Congress in Rome.

Both the date and the country are milestones for the onset of close cooperation among plant pathologists of the Mediterranean countries.

In this country, where 50 years ago eminent and unforgettable scientists from Italy and elsewhere from the Med region established the Mediterranean Phytopathological Union.

PHYTIATRY:

SCIENTIFIC PRIORITY AND CHALLENGE FOR THE WORLD AGRICULTURE AT THE 21ST CENTURY

- Eleftherios Tjamos
- PROFESSOR IN PLANT PATHOLOGY
- AGRICULTURAL UNIVERSITY OF ATHENS, HELLAS

This plenary lecture is dedicated to the participants of the 13th MPU congress as a friendly reminder to always keep an open eye and be continuously updated and not isolated in our research microcosm







Medicine /Phytiatry

Medicine

The Science of healing and prevention of human diseases

Phytiatry

The Science of protecting plants by preventing plant diseases and pests, healing plant diseases and managing pests











- It focuses on concepts used broadly but occasionally erroneously
 to
- Clarify the confusion over the proper meaning of the scientific terms Plant protection, Plant health and Phytiatry
- **Designate** discrepancies among them
- Demonstrate the significant role of Plant Medicine Doctors today and in the future and
- Bring out the need for establishing Phytiatry as new University multidisciplinary science

PHYTIATRY :

An emerging concept covering sciences beyond those involved in Plant protection and Plant health

What is the rationale?
 Why Phytiatry,
 Phytiatrie,
 Fitoiatria,
 Φυτιατρική in Greek?
 Plant Medicine
 Phytomedicin
 and not Plant Protection





<u>Plant or Crop Protection,</u> <u>Plant Health,</u> <u>Phytiatry</u>

- Are the scientific terms <u>Plant Protection or Plant</u> <u>Health similar</u> and broad enough to cover all aspects of <u>Phytiatry</u>?
- And then
- Is Phytiatry necessary for an economically profitable and better world agriculture?
- for food quality and safety and for the protection of the environment?
- So that Phytiatry could become a distinct University science offering even bachelor's degrees?





Plant Protection:

Plant protection is a rather

- artificial-technical concept, coined out as a term related to the control of plant pests and plant diseases
- Generally it deals with the use of chemical means, cultural practices or state regulations for pest control. Thus, plant protection deals mainly with applied plant health aspects
- Several meanings have being diachronically given





Plant Health:

Plant health

refers mainly to national or international rules and *legislations*

- Protecting safety of plant food
- Securing the health and quality status of crops
- Regulating the trade of plants and plant products
- Supervising the sale and use of plant protection products, or pesticides and
- Setting standards to monitor and control pesticide residues.





PHYTIATRY:

On the contrary the term

- Phytiatry is directly correlated with all aspects of basic and applied topics of various multidisciplinary plant health sciences
- additionally includes all measures and regulations concerning Plant protection and Plant health necessary to manage pests and pathogens
- Due to these differences it will be soon shown that we can use the term Phytiatry for educational purposes

PHYTIATRY:

Indeed more than 40 different scientific disciplines could be involved in Phytiatry

- Production Systems
- Disease and pest Monitoring
- Disease and pest Diagnosis
- Plant Protection Strategies
- Phytopathological Mycology, Bacteriology, Virology
- Epidemiology
- Entomology
- Nematology
- Weed Science
- Phytopharmacology
- Soil Management
- Seeds and Plant Propagation
- Biotechnology
- Variety Selection
- Stored-Product Protection, Harvest Processing, Horticulture, Agriculture, Forestry, Soil Science, Biometry, Vertebrates,, Technology, Molecular Biology, Breeding,

Plant protection is just an applied part of the multidisciplinary science of Phytiatry

 Here are the arguments for clarifying the occasionally misleading and inadequate term plant protection as a general term





International Plant Protection Congresses

The first IPPC was held in Louvain, Belgium in 1946.

Congresses up to 1979 focused principally on new means of <u>controlling insects</u> with discussion relating to the chemical control of plant diseases.

The Congress held in Washington, DC in 1979 was the first organized by a multidisciplinary group with emphasis on integrated pest management (IPM).

IPPCs have provided a forum for plant protection scientists to communicate and discuss important problems and <u>new discoveries related to crop</u> losses due to pests and their management. Wrong or limited use Phytiatry – phytiatrie

- Canadian Journal of Plant Pathology 1993
- in Phytiatry/Phytiatrie
- virus

. . .

- Rhizoctonia solani
- loose smut of wheat
- in 1994
- Aceria parapopuli

The Journal Archives of Phytopathology & Plant Protection

The title of the Journal indicates that Phytopathology is not plant protection only

- The journal Archives of Phytopathology and Plant Protection publishes original papers and reviews covering all scientific aspects of modern plant protection.
- Subjects include phytopathological virology, bacteriology, mycology, herbal studies and applied nematology and entomology as well as strategies and tactics of protecting crop plants and stocks of crop products against diseases.

Late Prof. *C. Van Assche* from Leuven, Belgium in <u>Agro-Ecosystems</u> 1974

Speaking about chemical soil disinfestation used the term of Plant protection as part of the Phytiatry



Even currently UCL

Principles of Phytiatry

- This course is taught in the 1st semester.
- Teacher(s): Claude Bragard, Anne Legrève
- Language: French
- Level: Second

Prof. Dekker, J. of Wagenigen redefined the concept of plant protection (International Symposium on Crop Protection, Gent (Belgium), 1988

Introduced the terms Phytiatry and Phytopharmacy instead of Plant protection to cover all aspects of Phytiatry including research and application

While recently AGROINOVA, using the *proper* Italian term refers to Phytiatric congresses

PROTEZIONE DELLE COLTURE

RIVISTA SCIENTIFICA DI PATOLOGIA VEGETALE, ENTOMOLOGIA AGRARIA E DISERBO DELLE COLTURE

EDIZIONE SPECIALE:

INCONTRI FITOIATRICI 2010





International organizations

The purposes involved in the operation of several relevant international organizations, demonstrate the restricted meaning of the terms Plant protection and Plant health compared to the term Phytiatry

Several International organizations deal with Plant health





But this is not Phytiatry

 Obviously the relation of Phytiatry to Plant health

is similar to the relation of

Medicine to Public health

APHIS

Center for Plant Health Science and Technology

- Plant Health Science and Plant Protection and Quarantine (PPQ).
- Scientifically valid regulatory and policy decisions.
- Practical tools for pest exclusion, detection, and management.

Efsa

European Food Safety Authority

PLH - Plant health Panel

 deals with organisms posing a risk to plant health. These include plant pests which threaten crop production and species which threaten biodiversity.

EPPO

European and Mediterranean Plant Protection Organization

EPPO European cooperation in plant health.

- protect plants, develop international strategies against the introduction and spread of dangerous pests and to promote safe and effective control methods.
- standards and publications on plant pests, phytosanitary regulations, and plant protection products.

Plant protection and Plant health are part of the Phytiatry

- Consequently 'Plant Protection' is a rather narrow term, thus unable to cover the concepts of protection, recovery and therapy in plant disease and pest management for both educational and practical purposes.
- Indeed fundamental or applied research, which contributes to better understanding plant health problems and inventing means or methods of managing them, are not just plant protection.
- Furthermore, problems in studying nature, biology, ecology and obtaining correct identity of the causal agents, pests or plant pathogens, which create vast difficulties in the diagnosticians, must not be considered simply as plant

tostin

Plant protection and Plant health are just part of the Phytiatry

Several Universities around the globe offer master courses under the title of

<u>Plant or Crop Protection</u> and in several cases students are dealing with molecular research aspects as part of the request of the degree but this is not plant protection only

I will elaborate on this soon



Georg-August-Universität Göttingen Division of Plant Pathology and Crop Protection



New Master program: CROP PROTECTION Starting: October 2010.

This master program is a job and research oriented,

interdisciplinary program. Graduate students have the opportunity to learn about the basic and applied aspects of research of a broad range of disciplines including plant pathology, nematology, entomology, virology, weed science, pesticide use, legislation and toxicology, molecular phytopathology, mycotoxin research, plant nutrition and plant breeding. For more information click here >>> <u>http://www.uni-goettingen.de/en/135654.html</u> British Universities: <u>Postgraduate Crop Protection courses</u> University Of Dundee <u>1 course</u> Harper Adams University College<u>3 courses</u> University Of Reading <u>6 courses</u> Imperial College London <u>2 courses</u>

- Postgraduate Crop Protection courses wrong name
- Could we call

the post graduate courses in medicine

public health courses?



EDUCATION UNIVERSITY STUDIES

1.UNDERGRADUATE STUDIES 2.POSTGRADUATE STUDIES Masters in Europe or elsewhere or PhD in USA or elsewhere

Specific University studies



- Because today there is a scientific gap in Phytiatric sciences mainly at the undergraduate level.
- There is no University in the world, with possibly very few exceptions, offering first University degree in Phytiatry.
- Before analyzing the educational aspects of Phytiatry
 I am going to refer in detail to the consequences
 which are apparent today due to this scientific gap.



Phytiatry in application

Diagnosing Plant health Problems

We have to ask the Plant Doctors What's wrong with these plants

But

- Are they, the so called plant doctors, scientifically reliable?
- Are they all eligible for the job?
- Are they available at the actual sites of plant production?

Resemblance

in disease symptom expression in plants

- Symptom recognition in plant diseases or identity of pests, are fundamental tools in clinical or laboratory plant disease and pest diagnosis and management.
- However, Symptom recognition becomes even more difficult due to the vast number of non-parasitic diseases and plant stress problems causing indistinguishable symptoms.
- This is more complicated with the variability of cultivated plants and cropping systems around the globe.

Empirical plant doctors....in the 21st century ?

- Several people consider that plant health service could be still based on a general crop production knowledge, simply increased and specialized through the everyday practice.
- But this service is occasionally based on inadequate superficial knowledge, on empirical information or on unethical attitude of practitioners.
- Unfortunately leading to tragic diagnosis and proposals for management with negative financial and environmental impacts.



Difficulties related with the vast number of problems in Plant disease and pest diagnosis

Examples of Phytopathogical problems arising from wrong disease diagnosis

Strong Winds Causing Stem wounds



Kathyneit, Kupie 00-5 oreAve aura ta deixpara ano cathepseis natives Choixidias Carlita) nou napourissour Ta Epparn was new operation She kera aprecis parter npwen Ese zaan 10 to otspeoekonio Exavor der KCIEI erda TO avayrupicipo anoyon Eirai ozi nporezali X10 Snyid (Ta pora opionioner or np cor porepo Prevelo avepotienda). To oupn apueres nyépes 12800. NUEPES ENIKPACHEE agodon oupnedpace Epopari Soveai Onjecio Expoons 0 20 200 Branzo à ano Edaypas. Enerão uninoios "enjorniporesis ouvadedipor Xapakenpioay a oupreduce wis kataotpopikin abbéver odnycorras TON KOGUO DE ABRONOUS YERADIOUS SATO TOY uai reyppingern diagricon ous open ME TIPS Kal debadge VIRADAAS

Dear Professor,

I sent you these samples of potato plants with some peculiar symptoms I saw for the first time.

My diagnosis is mechanical damage, due to strong winds and continuous heavy rainfall.

However, many other agronomists so called specialists characterize the symptoms as a serious disease and they convinced the farmers to apply useless chemicals. Please diagnose the disease. Just one out of thousand cases of wrong disease diagnosis...

Simply proving the need of specialized scientists, who with certainty and responsibility will consult farmers to confront plant health problems.
Specialized scientists in the plant health

- I do believe in the contribution of the Specialized scientists in solving plant health problems.
- Those, who will be able to visit the fields, the orchards and the glass houses to examine the plant health problems, to attend symptom expression, to diagnose the causes and identify pests and weeds and suggest the necessary measures.
- Those, who will communicate with the Research Institutes or Stations and inform to whom it may concern
- Those, who will transfer the new research results through an extension service
- Those, who will detect the new problems.

Simply because diagnosis is not so easy as Botrytis cinerea or Taphrina deformans to be easily

identified.....





Pepper

Downy mildew or powdery mildew? need different chemicals to be treated



Melon field cultivation Verticillium dahliae, Fusarium oxysporum f.sp. niveum or Olpidium bornovanus? A specialized institute is needed, not always available



Insect damage... toxicity? Experience is needed



Tangerines not speaking for themselves not disclosing their pains.....



Peach Unknown problem



Nectarines Low temperature damage, virus or viroid ?



What about this?? Chimeratoxicity ?



Virus or chimera ?



Sour rot or Botrytis bunch rot Grape berry moth (eudemis) or Stem and bunch breakdown (Ca Deficiency)



Grapevine cane Herbicide injury or *Agrobacterium vitis*?



ALMOND TREES Phytophthora? Verticillium? Armillaria? Rosellinia? Capnodis (syn. Bupestris)? or water logging?.....



Potato Verticillium dahliae, Phytophthora infestans or Dickeya solani.....?





A Striking example

I really doubt it if very few experienced diagnosticians could differentiate these very similar symptoms and diagnose each cause

Diouron toxicity













Grapevine yellow fleck viroid Magnesium deficiency Grapevine variegation

The problem of diagnosis in the great majority of cases

- Obviously most of these cases could be indentified in well equipped Plant clinics or modern institutes with the help of experienced and specifically educated plant doctors.
- However, I am afraid that almost 90% of plant disease and pest diagnosis is carried out by inexperienced so called "diagnosticians" all over the world

Origin of plant health specialists

 Plant health specialists today originate mainly from those obtaining a University Bachelor's degree from Agronomy, Horticulture, Crop sciences, Biology, Botany, Life sciences etc.

Because of the origin of their fist University studies

- These scientists, working for governmental institutions, are not always scientifically equipped to prevent entrance of pathogens or pests through......
- Dispersal of phytoquarantine plant pathogens and pests
- Movement of Propagative plant material

 Just to mention some of the most current alarming cases

Examples of International threats

1. <u>Karnal (Partial) Bun</u> <u>Tilletia indica</u>





2. Ug99 the emerging virulent stem rust race of

Puccinia graminis f.sp. tritici



Citrus greening Liberibacter asiaticus / Asian citrus psyllid





- A new bacterial species 'Candidatus *Liberibacter* psyllaurous' has been found in association with serious diseases of tomatoes, *potatoes*
- In some *potato* and tomato production areas of North America ...



Pepino mosaic virus (PepMV) infects **mainly** solanaceous plants,





Plant Doctors and Specialization

- Illegal importation (smuggling) of noncertified plant material can not be excluded.
- So, we do need very well educated specialists in Plant Medicine, to be able to cope with a problem even after the entrance otherwise diseases such as tristeza and many others already shown in the EPPO lists might be spread in a country

I visited Valencia 15 years ago and I came in close contact with the tragedy of tristeza



Greece through smuggling of plant material



Rhynchophorus ferrugineus



The current pest menace



or Tuta absoluta





Furthermore,

Problems due to ignorance of the scientific topic

- I am focusing on a group of difficulties in applying Phytiatry in the everyday practice
- This is just to prove that the lack of specialized practitioners results to lack of competency in solving serious phytiatric problems in several countries.

Ignorance of the source of the inoculum How Verticillium wilt is becoming a real menace Selected impressive cases

- I. The Aetolia and Livanates cases in Greece
- 2. The Spanish case
- 3. The Bakersfield case in California
- 4. Potatoes and Watermelons/Helia Case in Greece

Reduction in EU financial subsidies to farmers

Restricts cotton cultivation

Farmers are seeking for alternatives

Actoria Greece Verticillium dahliae- Olive after cotton

Establishment of olive orchards in fields previously cultivated to cotton

Ignorance of the hosts range and the biology of Verticillium dahliae

Extensive symptoms in almost 80% of the olive trees



Who is going to compensate the farmers for the loss.....

Livanates, Greece Verticillium dahliae- Olives after cotton



A real disaster

Andalucía Spain -olives and cotton Same problem with the defoliating race of V. dahliae


Bakersfield case in California

olives after safflower/cotton







Helia case Potatoes and watermelons

Potato field infested with Verticillium dahliae



Watermelons after Potatoes showing Verticillium wilt symptoms



Innumerable cases need plant doctors with a **broad** phytiatric *background* and experience

- Dutch elm disease/ Fungi and insects
- Vectors/ of viruses and phytoplasmas
- The Fun leaf virus /nematodes /Glyphosate
- Symptom complexity among diseases caused by Viroids/ toxicities /and deficiencies
- Bacterial diseases and insects
- Ants/ aphids /and viruses
- Rhizomania and Polymyxa betae and so on



And cases of therapy and not plant protection only

- Mineral Deficiencies
- Phytophthora crown rot
- Downy mildews, Powdery mildews
- Recovery from Verticillium Wilt
- Thermotherapy for viruses, viroids

Plant Health Atternatives, LLC Alternative Health Care for Trees and All Plants





Stressed catalpa

Cured catalpa

Plant Doctors

- *Obviously all cases are not just plant protection.*
- Offered Master degrees to become Plant Doctor are erroneously called by several Universities as Masters in Plant or Crop protection.
- Indeed, these terms are inadequate to cover all scientific disciplines involved in post graduate programmes of Phytiatry/ Plant medicine.
- So, I believe it is appropriate to call them Master's or PhD degrees in Plant Medicine for Plant Medicine researchers or practitioners.

Post graduate studies in Phytiatry

Plant medicine in post graduate level is a growing field that started in the University of Florida and has expanded in Nebraska and from USA to Japan, South Korea, Thailand and Egypt.

These PhD degrees in Plant Medicine are an excellent initiative and significant departure towards the correct direction.

Plant medicine/Phytiatry around the globe





Providing leadership in crop and plant health education since 1999



Future Plant Doctors!

For additional information contact Dr. Robert J. McGovern, 352-392-3631 rjm@ifas.ufl.edu or visit: http://dpm.ifas.ufl.edu



- The Professional Program in Plant Health has started in 2009.
- "It's comparable to the doctor of veterinary medicine program for animals and doctor of public health for humans, only it's for plants,"
- The program is designed to train practitioners rather than researchers in entomology, agronomy, plant pathology and soil science.

In Europe Masters' degree in Plant Medicine

Corso di Laurea Specialistica in Medicina delle Piante (Facoltà di Agraria Universita di Bari)



Common Master's in Phytiatry in EU countries

The University of Bari the Agricultural University of Athens and Plodvil University of Bulgaria have created a TEMPUS **INTERNATIONAL JOINT MASTER DEGREE IN PLANT MEDICINE** in cooperation with the Universities of Tirana and Korce Albania, Novisad and Belgrade in Serbia, Zagreb in Kroatia, Tetovo and Scopia in FYROM and Pristina in Kosovo.

TEMPUS PROJECT IN MASTER OF SCIENCE IN PLANT MEDICINE

International joint Master degree in Plant Medicine (acronym: IPM)

158875-TEMPUS-IT-JPCR Joint Project – Curricular Reform

EAC/01/2009







Concluding remarks

- However, modern Agriculture in Mediterranean basin and world wide necessitates a revolution in educating students in various plant medicine disciplines at an undergraduate level.
- Establishing Phytiatry as a University science will open a broad spectrum of carriers for a new profession of plant doctors.

Terms relative to Plant medicine used by relevant international scientific societies

- Regardless of the existence of hundreds of international scientific societies devoted to the plant health sciences, currently new societies use the term Phytiatry or Plant Medicine such as in Switzerland and Germany.
- The Swiss Society for Phytiatry
- The German Phytomedical Society (DPG)

Swiss Society for Phytiatry (SSP) Schweizerische Gesellschaft für Phytomedizin Società svizzera di fitoiatria Swiss society for phytiatry



The German Phytomedical Society (DPG)



- The German Phytomedical Society (DPG) is the largest scientific association in plant production in Germany
- The Society is membership-based 1200 members, are professionals within the entire field of phytomedicine Science for Practice
- Phytomedicine is the science of plant disorders (whether biotic or abiotic), their diagnosis, management and control.



Hellenic Society of Phytiatry

- The Hellenic Society of Phytiatry was established in Greece in 2009
- As current President of the Hellenic Society of Phytiatry, I send a letter to the Editor of Phytopathology News published by APS,
- With many enthusiastic and positive comments from scientists all around the globe

TJAMOS Phytopathology News May 2010



Letter to the Editor

Establishing a New Science in Universities

It is evident that the vast science of agriculture desperately needs the establishment of a separate field of plant health sciences called "plant medicine," known as *Phytiatry* in Greek and analogous to "veterinary science." Indeed, the apparent lack of inspiration and interest of candidate students to study plant pathology, due to the uncertainty in obtaining future jobs (only research centers and university departments offer limited job opportunities) and the lack of attractiveness of our important discipline, necessitate a revolution in educating students in various plant health disciplines. Thus, I strongly support the idea of educating scientists in the field of plant medicine since several scattered sciences dealing with plant health will come closer and create undergraduate programs for plant doctors of preferably a four- to five-year duration. This will also fill the enormous gap of missing specialists in the private sector.

Concluding remarks

Plant medicine doctors through undergraduate and postgraduate studies

- Although plant doctor programs at a postgraduate level in the USA and Europe are a breakthrough, there are differences in the scientific backgrounds among those entering the programs.
- I personally elieve that the postgraduate studies should come as a step next to undergraduate studies in Phytiatry.
- Till then Doctors in Plant medicine will be a fine but transitional solution.

PHYTIATRY:

- The establishment of this distinct and independent science, in parallel with agricultural sciences
- would establish a new very attractive science
- and would gradually create the basis for obtaining general or specialized plant doctors.
- Plant Doctors able to offer specific qualitative and secured service either in the private sector to the state or in the university, in research centres, in world agriculture.

Concluding remarks Time for Action

I feel that the University community, ISPP, APS, MPU and societies of other related disciplines have to exercise their pioneered role and go ahead with such an initiative to formalize and establish **Phytiatry** as a new University science for the benefit of world agriculture, the environment and the humanity. Today I am very pleased sharing with you my dream



- I managed to stay young at heart, mind and soul throughout 40 years of
- phytopathological research,
- university education,
- communication and interactions with my colleagues around the globe but also being
- in close contact with the farmers.
- Just because I am feeling and acting according to the signs of the times and trying to live in a provocative, innovative and groundbreaking way.
- Signs which say that we ought to establish Phytiatry as a University science for the generations to come

