

Preface:
Invasive Species and Their Management

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The General Assembly of the Scientific Committee on Problems of the Environment (SCOPE) in 1982 rang a wake up call on the global significance of the biological invasions. Almost two centuries before this event, the alien invasive problem was recognized in India due to the difficulties caused by the introduction of a cactus, *Opuntia vulgaris* Miller (Cactaceae). It was controlled by introducing the cochineal insect, *Dactylopius ceylonicus* (Green) (Homoptera: Dactylopiidae) (Tryon 1910). This was the first record of the biological control of a weed.

In 1986, SCOPE organized an international workshop highlighting the invasive species problem on a global scale (Drake et al. 1989). Some regional workshops on invasive species have also been held (Macdonald et al. 1986, Ramakrishnan 1991).

In 1990, University of Guam organized a workshop on “Exotic Pests in the Pacific – Problems and Solutions” for the Pacific Science Association Scientific Committee on Entomology (Muniappan et al. 1991).

In February 1999, President Clinton signed an Executive Order to prevent the introduction of invasive species, to provide support for control and to minimize economic, ecological and human health impacts. A Bill, H.R. 1462, has been introduced in the United States House of Representatives to authorize the Secretary of the Interior to assist states and territories to control or eradicate harmful non-native weeds.

The Tropical and Subtropical Agriculture Research (TSTAR) program of the Cooperative State Research, Education and Extension Service of the U.S. Department of Agriculture organized a workshop on “Mitigating the Effects of Exotic Pests on Trade and Agriculture, Part A. The Caribbean” in 1999 (TSTAR Workshop X 1999). The “Part B. Pacific” was held in conjunction with the X Pacific Science Intercongress, as a session entitled, “Invasive Species and Their Management” with the support from the Pacific Basin Administrative Group of the TSTAR.

In this session, the participants ranged over a geographical region from India in the west to Florida in the east. Papers were presented for two days and a day was allotted for a field tour of Guam so that the participants could witness the problems of invasive plant species in Guam. The session was divided into three sections, (1) invasive species introductions, (2) their management, and (3) regulatory programs to prevent their introductions and to control them when

introduced. Each section had a panel discussion at the end of the session and the participants came up with 6 recommendations.

References

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