

Introduction

The 10th Inter-Congress of the Pacific Science Association was held June 1–6, 2001 on Guam. A total of 275 reviewed abstracts were accepted for presentation in 18 symposia that covered a range of subjects from “Oceanic Librarianship” to “Changing Patterns of Health in the Pacific and Asian Regions.” Under the direction of Dean Joyce Marie Camacho, the University of Guam’s Graduate School & Research was the overall host institution for the Inter-Congress.

One of the overall themes of the Inter-Congress was the environmental issues confronting the region. There were symposia on agriculture, biodiversity, coral reef conservation, environmental ethics, Pacific climate change and variability, sustainable tourism, and water resources. The University of Guam’s College of Agriculture and Life Sciences hosted a three part Symposium on Agricultural Issues. Two of these symposia on agricultural issues: “Invasive alien species and their management” and “Sustainable agriculture in the Pacific and Asian regions” received support from the Pacific Basin Administrative Group (PBAG) of the Tropical and Subtropical Agricultural Research (T-STAR), a program funded by the United States Department of Agriculture and from the Agricultural Experiment Station of the University of Guam. This support allowed the conveners of these two sessions to conduct field days on Guam and to publish proceedings containing the papers presented at their sessions.

The proceedings of the session on invasive species have been edited by R. Muniappan and R. Campbell and published as Supplement 6 to *Micronesica*. The present proceedings contain some of the papers from the three sessions of the symposium on “Sustainable Agriculture in the Pacific and Asian Regions.” The twelve papers are organized under three general headings.

In the first grouping, there are five papers dealing with social issues: Brown has written a brief summary of the agricultural research institutions of the islands of the tropical Pacific; McConnell & Barber present a summary and description of their Portable Extension Office for Program Literature Exchange (PEOPLE), a CD of tropical agricultural extension publications; Saragih, Okuhira & Yoshida discuss the influence of transmigration on agriculture on the island of Sulawesi in Indonesia; Naholowaa & Marutani review their concept tests of value-added products made from root crops and Prasad reviews the status and potential of aquaculture in Fiji and other Pacific island countries.

In the second grouping, there are four papers dealing with horticultural issues in Micronesia: Sablan & Marutani discuss nitrogen fixing trees that are suitable for the diversified soils on Guam; Josekutty, Cornelius & Kilafwasru describe their work on micro propagating four banana cultivars in Micronesia; Marutani found that sunnhemp used as a green manure improved the yields of Pai Tsai on Guam; and Marutani & Schlub evaluated several cultivars of vegetable soybeans on Guam.

In the final grouping, there are three papers dealing with plant protection issues in sustainable agriculture: Lin presents the Taiwan Agricultural Research

Institute's efforts on improving plant protection for the development of sustainable agriculture in Taiwan; Miller presents a probit analysis of pesticide toxicity to aphids on Guam; and Nandwani & Joseph summarize the biological control of insect and plant pests in the Marshall Islands. In addition we include abstracts of two papers presented in the symposium which may prove of interest to our readers. These include a description by Bonsi & Bromfield of developing value added products from sweet potato and a brief description by Bartholomew of the sustainable agricultural activities promoted by the USDA-Natural Resources Conservation Service in the Pacific Basin.

We hope that the reader finds the papers in this proceedings issue informative and enjoyable. It is also a hope of ours that the publication of these proceedings contributes in some small way to the strengthening of the agricultural component of the Pacific Science Association. The 20th Pacific Science Congress will occur from March 17 to 21, 2003 in Bangkok, Thailand and we are looking forward to a strong set of agricultural and environmental sessions at this meeting.

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