The 13th Arab Congress of Plant Protection (13th ACPP), organized by the Arab Society of Plant Protection (ASPP) in collaboration with the Ministry of Agriculture, Water Resources and Fisheries of Tunisia, represented by the National Institute of Agronomic Research of Tunisia (INRAT), was held during the period 16-21 October 2022 in Hammamet, Tunisia. A total of 270 scientists and graduate students from Egypt, Jordan, Sudan, Syria, Lebanon, Morocco, Algeria, Tunisia, Libya, Oman, UAE, Palestine, Mauritania and Saudi Arabia participated in this event. In addition, experts from outside the region, USA, United Kingdom, Italy, France, Switzerland, Turkey, Germany, Kenya and Pakistan, also participated in this congress. International organizations such as the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO), the International Center for Wheat and Maize (CIMMYT), the International Center for Agricultural Research in the Dry Areas (ICARDA), the International Centre for Advanced Mediterranean Agronomic Studies (CIHEAM), the European Plant Protection Organization (EPPO), the Mediterranean Phytopathological Union (MPU), the Arab Center for the Studies of Arid Zones and Dry Lands (ACSAD), the Arab Organization for Agricultural Development (AOAD), and the Islamic Organization for Food Security (IOFS) were also represented in this meeting. The congress program included four symposia focused on different aspects, including plant health for food security and safety, molecular plant protection and its applications in pest management, research and innovation for sustainable crop protection, and the application of behavioral control tools as a safe and effective alternative in pest management. Thirty-nine oral paper presentation sessions and two poster sessions were presented, where 360 scientific papers in all plant protection disciplines, such as economic entomology, fungal, viral and bacterial diseases, nematodes, plant extracts, pesticides, weeds, biological control, integrated pest management, climate change & plant protection, food security & plant protection, Pest surveillance, and beneficial insects, were presented and discussed.

ICARDA was one of the Gold sponsors, and CGIAR Germplasm Health Units (GHUs) was one of the Bronze sponsors of the 13th ACPP.

Safaa Kumari (Head of ICARDA’s Seed Health Lab/Plant Virologist) was the senior editor of the abstracts book of 13th ACPP and authors/co-authors in 5 abstracts (https://hdl.handle.net/10568/127320). In addition, Safaa Kumari was elected as a President of the Arab Society for Plant Protection for the period 2023-2025.

Mr Abd-Al Rahman Moukahel (Senior Research Assistant, Seed Health Lab - Lebanon) was selected for the best oral presentation award present by graduate students. His oral presentation entitled “Comparison of serological and molecular methods for diagnosis of viruses causing yellowing and stunting symptoms for the pulse crops”.

Safaa G. Kumari
Seed Health Laboratory, International Center for Agricultural Research in the Dry Areas (ICARDA), Terbol Station, Zahle, Lebanon