The International Association for the Plant Protection Sciences (IAPPS) is the organisation responsible for overseeing the International Plant Protection Congress (IPPC) series. On behalf of the IAPPS Board, we are pleased to join the local organisers in extending you an invitation to attend and contribute to this, the XIX IPPC. The program of activities being developed by colleagues in Hyderabad, together with the IAPPS Board, is aimed to address many of the key issues faced by plant protection scientists and practitioners, particularly those resulting from the impact of climate change.

There is a long history to the IPPC: the first IPPC was held in Louvain, Belgium in 1946. Since then, an IPPC has been held every four years or so, initially organised by a committed group of individuals and organisations. At the IPPC held at The Hague in the Netherlands in 1995, the organising committee recommended that a more formal organisational structure should be established to oversee future congresses, as well as to provide other communication services to the international plant protection community. Thus the International Association for the Plant Protection Sciences (IAPPS) was formed, consisting of a Governing Board with expertise covering the main plant protection disciplines and, at the same time, representing 15 world regions.

We are particularly pleased that this IPPC2019 will take place in India, the first time the Congress has been held on the sub-continent. Together with other IAPPS Board members, we look forward to meeting with you in Hyderabad and joining with you in participating in what will be a stimulating and worthwhile experience.