PRESIDENTIAL ADDRESS

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Weed Science Societies

I would like to tell you of the formation of two weed science societies that may be of interest to you.

International Weed Science Society: In 1967, FAO convened a conference to explore the possibility of forming an international weed science society. Progress was slow, mainly due to the non-agreement of the objectives of such a society.

In February 1974, at the Weed Science Society of America’s annual conference at Las Vegas, a small international group, in the early hours of the morning, under the chairmanship of Neil Shafer (American Cyanamid Company) were sufficiently enthusiastic to support the development and agree in principle to the objectives of an international weed science society. At the next meeting of the Weed Science Society of America in Washington in 1975, a larger group formed an international weed science society and appointed a seven man steering committee under the chairmanship of Neil Shafer to run the affairs of the society until an executive committee could be elected on a regional basis (Europe, Africa, mid-East, North America, Latin America and Asian-Pacific area).

Stated aims of the society

“The International Weed Science Society is a new world-wide society open to all who are interested in weeds, weed control and closely affiliated topics. Its object is to encourage and promote weed science and weed control technology for the improvement of agricultural production. The society will not replace existing National or Regional (multinational) societies but rather will complement and supplement their vital agricultural role. Additionally it will provide some of the benefits and functions of a Weed Science Society where none are currently available.”

Stated objectives and activities

“As described in the Constitution, the Society will: encourage, promote and assist the development of weed science and weed control technology; promote and assist communications between individuals and organisations; promote the development of special symposia on topics of international interest; encourage and assist in the development of weed science societies; provide an international information exchange centre; develop and maintain a directory of weed science personnel and special project interests; provide a calendar of important Weed Science Society events; promote uniformity in weed science terminology; maintain liaison with relevant national and international organizations; identify and monitor new weed problems; stimulate research and other programmes to answer changing weed problems; assist in organizing meetings, conferences and symposia; encourage and assist education and training in weed science and technology.”

The only points still under discussion before the brochure is circulated widely to all weed science members is the basic charges for membership. It is hoped to finalise this before the Asian-Pacific Weed Science Society meeting in October of this year.

European Weed Research Society:

This new society under the chairmanship of J. D. Fryer, Director Weed Research Organisation, England, replaces the old European Weed Research Council. The essential difference is the new society is open to anyone interested in weed science and is not restricted as previously to government research workers. There are also provisions for local societies to affiliate with the European Weed Research Society for a nominal fee of $2.00. Our Society may like to take advantage of this proposal.