

The International Society of Citriculture 1968 to 2008 — the First 40 Years

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The International Society of Citriculture (ISC) was conceived while planning the first International Symposium for Citrus in 1968 in Riverside, California. The organizing committee of that first symposium was Homer Chapman, Chair; I. J. Thomason, Co-chair; A.M. Boyce, L. J. Klotz, R. L. Metcalf, W. Reuther, J. T. Richards, J. M. Wallace and F. R. Wilcox. They developed a program with 23 separate topic areas and a diverse subject list of 235 total oral presentations. This diverse subject list is often followed in the current citrus congresses. The choice of so many topics reflected the wealth of interesting on-going citrus research and the lack of other venues to have a large, interested audience to hear those presentations. The rationale for the formation of the ISC was this perceived need for a specific international venue for presentations and discussions about citrus.

The ISC was officially organized under a State of California charter with appropriate US federal classification as a nonprofit organization. Dr. Homer Chapman was appointed as the first Secretary-Treasurer and served in this capacity from 1973 until 1984 when he was selected as Honorary President of the Society. At that time Dr. Charles Coggins was selected as the Secretary-Treasurer and served in that capacity through 2000. Dr. Carol Lovatt currently serves as Secretary-Treasurer.

The governing body of the ISC is the Executive Committee, chaired by the current ISC President. The executive Committee is made up of Country representatives, one for each 5% of total ISC membership with up to two representatives for each country, along with the Society's Secretary-Treasurer, the President, Immediate Past President and the President-elect. There is a maximum Executive Committee membership of 30. The President for each four years preceding a Congress (Table 1) is chosen by the host country in coordination with the ISC Executive Committee. For all the congresses except in Sun City, South Africa, the President has also served as the Chair of the Organizing Committee. In that case Dr. J. L. van Zyl served as chair of the organizing committee. An important position in the organizing committee for each congress is the Program Chairperson who is responsible for the scientific program.

The first Congress of the ISC was held in Murcia and Valencia, Spain in 1973. This was a well attended meeting to initiate the ISC venture and the Spanish hosts provided a superb cultural experience as well as a well run meeting. This set a very high standard for subsequent organizers. A unique aspect of that first congress was that two venues were used for the meetings, Murcia and Valencia, Spain. Since that time, 10 more congresses over the past 40 years have been held in 9 countries. By 2012, ISC will have held Congresses in 8 locations on 7 continents and the island nation of Japan (Table 1). The diverse cultures and citrus production observed by congress attendees that have been able to attend all of these Congresses have been extremely educational and culturally expanding. Attendance at these congresses has ranged from 600 to 1,100 persons, excepting the joint ISHS-ISC Congress in Australia in 1978.

Table 1 The Citrus Congresses of the International Society of Citriculture, years held, venues selected, presidents chosen and program chairs

Year	Congress #	Venue	President	Scientific Program Committee Chair
1973	I	Murcia and Valencia, Spain	Octavio Carpena Artes	L. E. Ibdnez
1977	II	Orlando, Florida, USA	Herman Reitz	Ivan Stewart
1978	III	Sydney, Australia	Peter R. Gary	B. V. Chandler
1981	IV	Tokyo, Japan	Shoichi Tanaka	Nishiura
1984	V	Sao Paulo, Brazil	D. C. Giacometti	Celio S. Moreira
1988	VI	Tel Aviv, Israel	Kurt Mendel	S. P. Monsele & R. Goren
1992	VII	Acireale, Italy	Francesco Russo	Catara
1996	VIII	Sun City, South Africa	Jons Terblanehe	John P. Bower
2000	IX	Orlando, Florida, USA	L. G. Albrigo	James P. Syvertsen
2004	X	Agadir, Morocco	M. El-Otmani	Ahmed Ait-Oubahou
2008	XI	Wuhan, Hubei, China	Xiuxin Deng	Wenwu Guo
2012	XII	Valencia, Spain	L. Navarro	

Some interesting but unusual highlights of Congresses included the first legal visit of Cuban researchers to the USA at the 1977 Congress in Orlando, Florida. ISC attendees found they needed to be careful on nearby streets in Sao Paulo, Brazil in 1984. ISC attendees were missed by rockets fired into Northern Israel by one day while on tour after the 1988 Congress. ISC met in a casino at Sun City in South Africa in 1996, and there were medium sized wild cats in the yard trees during dinner in Kruger National Park. Attendees at those events have many other interesting stories to tell.

On a more scientific note, the 10 Congresses through 2004 in Morocco have resulted in 2,569 papers or abstracts being published in their Proceedings. Counting the first Symposium on Citrus held in Riverside, California, a total of just over 2,800 citrus related papers have been published. The breakdown by general subjects is presented in Table 2. This is a testament to the broad interest and enthusiastic participation in the ISC Congress meetings. World and Economic topics have included reports of citrus industries in various countries along with economic or marketing concerns. Genetic topics have included scion cultivar reports, breeding techniques and more recently a number of papers on citrus biotechnology. This area has clearly increased in importance as shown by the number of papers presented over the last three congresses (Table 2). Production papers included presentations on climatic interactions of citrus, some aspects of physiology including flowering and fruit set, use of plant growth regulators as well as nutrition, irrigation and salinity papers. Although Pests and Diseases seem to be of more concern worldwide to citriculture industries in recent years, there is no clear increase in the number of papers on these subjects presented at the last two Congresses. Postharvest and Processing sessions have included papers on harvesting and biochemical changes in fruit. These sessions were particularly strong at the two Florida, USA meetings as well as the Congress in Japan.

Table 2 Number of papers International Citrus of the International presented by general categories at the First Symposium and the subsequent Citrus Congresses Society of Citriculture from 1973 through 2004.

Year & Congress	World & Econ.	Rootstocks	Genetics	Production	Pests	Diseases	Postharvest Processing	Total papers
1st symp	9	13	13	85	57	29	29	235
1973 I	6	17	12	87	25	27	52	226
1977 II	25	16	26	92	25	41	80	290
1978 III	4	10	4	47	9	9	19	102 ^z
1981 IV	11	16	36	93	35	53	81	325
1984 V	0	11	24	50	15	58	29	187
1988 VI	9	11	28	53	40	41	47	229
1992 VII	20	28	54	98	49	48	39	336
1996 VIII	12	25	67	87	42	37	29	299
2000 IX	8	23	109	200	77	82	95	508 ^y
2004 X	32	10	96	85	46	45	52	366 ^y

^z This congress was held in conjunction with the International Society for Horticultural Sciences Congress.

^y First congresses to publish abstracts only from oral or poster presentations.

In 1997, following the VI Congress in South Africa, the USA host for 2000 agreed to establish a Website for ISC and maintain it under the umbrella of the Citrus Research and Education Center, University of Florida website. The first Web Master that developed and maintained the site (1997 to 2005) was Ms. Pamela Russ. Site access is: (<http://www.crec.ifas.ufl.edu/societies/ISC/index.htm>). The current congress in Wuhan, China has a website for all of the Congress information and activities, which has a link from the ISC site.

Most recently, ISC has embarked on a joint effort with the International Society for Horticultural Science (ISHS) in order to enhance meeting and publishing activities concerning citrus. This will be accomplished through the newly formed Citrus Section in ISHS, but operated by ISC. The ISHS connection provides a mechanism to organize and hold appropriate symposia outside the normal 4-year interval between ISC Congresses. Now, citrus will be a more recognized commodity at ISHS Congresses for research paper presentations. The proceedings of the ISC Congresses will be published under the Acta Horticulturae Series in order to provide a standardized format with the same publisher, a broader distribution of the ISC Congress Proceedings and citrus related symposia and on-line searching for content in all of these Proceedings will be provided. The first ISC-ISHS jointly sponsored symposium was held in Florida in January 2008 on the topic of 'Application of Precision Agriculture for Fruits and Vegetables'. Plans are for this to be a continuing series under the Citrus Section of ISHS with the title 'Precision Horticulture'.

The progress and success of the ISC indicates this was a well conceived and rational decision in 1968 to create the International Society of Citriculture. We look forward to the success and sustainability of ISC for the next 40 years.