

# Introduction

*Seventh Meeting of the Technical Advisory Committee  
Of Plant Protection Directors, Caribbean Area  
October 26-30, 1992, Roseau, Dominica*

The Seventh Meeting of the Technical Advisory Committee of Plant Protection Directors was held between 26 and 30 October, 1992, in Roseau, Dominica. The meeting was organised by the Commonwealth Science Council, London, the Inter-American Institute for Co-operation on Agriculture (IICA) and the International Institute of Biological Control. The meeting was essentially divided into two parts - one dealing with plant diseases, the other with crop pests. The proceedings of the first part, including the country reports, has been published in a report by IICA.

As far as crop pests are concerned, the meeting focused on the problems posed by whitefly (*Bemisia tabaci*) and *Thrips palmi*, which are the major pests of the region.

A small number of specialist presentations were made

and these were followed by a round table discussion on possible strategies for combating the problems.

The presentations were made by Dr D Gerling of the University of Tel-Aviv, who detailed the biology of *Bemisia tabaci* and its predators and parasites; Dr R A Hall, in charge of the National Institute for Higher Education, Science and Technology (NIHERST) Biological and Integrated Control Projects in Trinidad and Tobago, who spoke on the use of pathogens to control whitefly and *T. palmi*; and Dr C Prior of the International Institute of Biological Control, who spoke on the control of locusts by pathogens. A short presentation on a new bioassay system for thrips and whitefly was given by Ms Dorothy Peterkin, a member of the NIHERST biological control group.

