

**7th International Workshop on Grapevine Trunk Diseases, held in Santa Cruz, Chile during January 17-20, 2010**

Marlene Jaspers and four PhD students attended the workshop, where they all made oral presentations on current research, which also involved Eirian Jones and Hayley Ridgway. Nicholas Amponsah spoke twice, providing interesting new information about the natural dispersal of Botryosphaeriaceae spores in vineyards and about the infection and disease progression processes of one species that commonly affects young grapevines. Jeyaseelan Baskarathevan also discussed the dispersal of Botryosphaeriaceae spores, but with a more specific study that used two marker strains of these fungi to demonstrate that dispersal by splash could take the spores about 3 metres within a 2-3 day rainy period. Regina Billones caused consternation when she spoke about a nursery survey which showed high frequency of Botryosphaeriaceous infection in the propagation material and the young plants being produced by propagation nurseries. A paper on control of *Cylindrocarpon* black foot by Carolyn Bleach, described a novel method using biofumigation with Brassica crops, which caused great interest due to its effectiveness and potential as a sustainable strategy. Marlene Jaspers presented some work by a completing PhD student, Chantal Probst, on the development of a quantitative PCR method which is able to detect very low levels of the black foot pathogens in soil. This method was used to show that spore numbers reduced rapidly when placed into soil, but then the quantity remained stable as some spores converted to survival structures.





Vineyards near La Serena, Chile. Irrigation allows them to be grown in hilly arid regions.