trends have to be considered when deciding on research on the use of mineral fertilizers:

- first, environment protection considerations are gaining in importance; and
- second, we are in the process of a global climate change.

The concurrent appearance of these two trends urges the spread of energy- and water-saving technologies.

It cannot be doubtful for people having education in the natural sciences that food supply for the present 5 billion - which will soon become 8 billion - people cannot be secured without using mineral fertilizers. Bio-farming procedures are of course possible, and the products of bio-farming should be on the market for those who need them. On a global scale, however, bio-farming alone cannot secure high-level food supply.

Material- and energy-saving also applies to mineral fertilizers. Both in further research and in practical application the increase of the efficiency of the acting agent per unit should be the primary strategic goal.

Continuing research on the biological resources of plants might mean much reserve for the future.

Increasing genetic potential in plant improvement has many unutilized possibilities. Improving plants to better utilize nutrients has become an important task.