

II. Perspectives and future research

What are the most important research topics and goals for the future?

- preparing site-specific nutrient and pollutant balance sheets in order to decide which amounts of wastes can be used economically reasonable and ecologically safe
- reducing losses during storage, preparation and application of wastes of agricultural production
- crop management or technical systems to avoid groundwater pollution
- development of more efficient processing techniques (separation of slurry, addition of sulfuric acid, use of nitrification inhibitors and so on), anaerobic fermentation, aeration, composting
- intensive exchange of information between agricultural producers, agricultural technicians, as well as water and environmental protection agencies.
- intensifying the counselling of farmers and development of useful recommendations instead of hardly practicably laws or regulations.

Farmers aware of ecological hazards - which are the majority - are certainly willing to follow these recommendations.

III. Conclusions

This symposium has demonstrated a great knowledge of this subject among international scientists. From the vivid discussions new ideas emerged for further research but it became also evident that a considerable research deficit still exists. My acknowledgements go to the organizers and supporters of this symposium, especially to the Bundesministerium für Ernährung und Landwirtschaft, to the government of Niedersachsen and to the host, the Bundesforschungsanstalt für Landwirtschaft Braunschweig. The local committee, Prof. Dr. Sauerbeck, Prof. Dr. Bader, Dr. Rietz, and Dr. Krauß did a perfect job together with their always friendly and helpful staff to make this meeting a success. Special thanks to the translators and technicians for their excellent work for a precise scientific communication. I would also like to thank all those which have participated as chairmen, coordinators, speakers or in discussions. In the name of all participants I may conclude that this CIEC symposium has fulfilled its purpose to establish an exchange of information about these acute and difficult problems on an international basis.