

fertilizer shortages, thanks to pledges made by donor governments. More than 530,000 tons of fertilizers have been provided at a value of about US \$ 140 million. The proceeds from the sales of these grants are reinvested in local currencies and in agricultural development projects.

The examples and figures quoted confirm the importance of fertilizers and appropriate plant nutrition for increased agricultural production. They also show the interest of the international community to assist in achieving the increase. The solution of technical problems concerning fertilizers and plant nutrition must be accompanied by appropriate policies, especially those concerning fertilizer and produce price relationships, to provide incentives to farmers to produce more than their subsistence requirements. Such policies can only come from within each country and be developed according to its conditions and prevailing financial constraints and humanitarian principles.

A common effort of the international community as a whole to assure adequate food for future populations, in which fertilizers and plant nutrition play an important role, will represent a considerable contribution to the peaceful future of the world.