

This symposium is the third of its kind after the transfer of CIEC from Zürich to Vienna in 1977 and marks the beginning of a new conception in CIEC's publication activities.

Beside the proceedings of "World Congresses" of CIEC and its "General Assemblies" the proceedings of "Symposia" offer additional opportunities for researchers and other scientists working in agricultural and ecological sciences to push forward fruitful ideas for the further development and to practically apply new findings and experience in these fields. By selected subjects and topics of high actuality and/or special interests, Symposia are an effective means for discussing problems in detail and preparing projects and programmes for further scientific research.

Thus, the first Symposium held in Vienna in February 1977 dealt with the topic "Liquid Fertilizer Use" and the second Symposium, held in April 1978 also in Vienna, with "Problems of a highly intensified agriculture in the European Countries".

With respect to the important role of fertilizers for the future of agriculture in developing countries – especially in connection with the limited sources of irrigation water in the more arid zones – the third Symposium dealt mainly with principles and problems of fertirrigation in arid and semiarid regions.

The Libyan authorities were extraordinarily interested in this field of agricultural research and offered therefore all facilities for a scientific programme on a high level of research. The Symposium was held at Garyounis University in Benghazi under the auspices of the Libyan Authorities.

More than 110 scientists from 18 countries and international organizations and numerous participants from Garyounis University and the Agricultural Research and Experimental stations in Libya attended the meeting.

There were 5 introductory lectures and about 50 contributions. It has been decided to publish them all in order to give an overall picture of the subjects treated.

That all authors submitted their manuscripts in the English version on time, is gratefully appreciated. To the colleagues of the Editorial Board may I express my gratitude for their comments and corrections.

I would also like to thank the authorities of S.P.L.A.J. as well as the representatives of Garyounis University, Prof. Dr. A.H. Zlitni, President, and especially Prof. Dr. A. Lairji, Vice-President and Dean of the Faculty of Agriculture, for their financial support regarding the printing of the Proceedings of the Libyan Symposium.

May the proceedings of the third Symposium of CIEC be helpful in the proper use of fertilizer in irrigation regions and contribute to a higher agricultural production in all countries where the solution of food problems is a real challenge to science and research.

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