

Nearly 65 years have elapsed since the memorable first " Conferences Internationales des Engrais Chimiques," which took place in October 1932 in Rome. As a result of this meeting and in relation to the next international conference held in 1933 in Amsterdam, delegates from 29 countries (Australia, Belgium, Brazil, British India, Canada, Czechoslovakia, Denmark, The Dutch East Indies, Egypt, Finland, France, Germany, Great Britain, Greece, Holland, Hungary, Italy, Latvia, Marocco, Norway, Peru, Poland, Puerto Rico, Romania, Sweden, Switzerland, Republic of South-Africa, USA and Yugoslavia) decided to establish an association dealing with the scientific and technical aspects of chemical fertilizers under the name: CENTRE INTERNATIONAL DES ENGRAIS CHIMIQUES (C.I.E.C.) with headquarters in Rome and Zurich. To complete the foundation procedure, a further conference was called in November 1934 in Berne.

The statutes aimed at the following goals:

- To establish relations and co-operations with other organizations (national and international) and persons interested in the problems of science and technology, production, distribution and application of all types of fertilizers and fertilizing materials
- To promote and organize international meetings such as congresses and smaller conferences, in particular concern of fertilization as the mean for improving yields, crop quality and soil fertility by a well-balanced fertilizer application in order to create and/or maintain a stable nutrient equilibrium between the off-take of the crop and its compensation by adding fertilizer nutrients to the substrate (soil)
- To promote research on soil-testing and plant analysis methods and the assessment of nutrient demand
- To promote methods for calibration and control of nutrients in fertilizers by legal measures

These goals are still of current interest and have been supplemented by new problems, which arose with the increasing use of mineral fertilizers and its potentially eutrophic effects on the natural environment.

The first World Congress of the new foundation was held in 1938 in Rome. In four main sessions, the economics as well as the production, distribution and consumption of commercial fertilizers were discussed on a world-wide scale.

In the early days of CIEC's activities, important contributions to the role of mineral fertilizers for the improvement of agricultural production and soil fertility were made by the first President, Dr. E. Feisst, Ex-Minister of the Swiss government, and by the first Secretary General, Prof. Dr. F. Angelini, from the University of Naples. Both have formed CIEC into a noteworthy international scientific society as far as fertilizer studies and research are concerned.

The society's budding continuity of work was interrupted by World War II for nearly 10 years. After the end of this war it was on the initiative of Dr. Feisst and Prof. Angelini again to reactivate the young society as soon as possible.

After gatherings of preparatory character in August 1949 in Zurich and in November 1949 in Paris, the Central Office of CIEC had a further meeting in Paris in order to discuss the organization of the II World Congress to be held in 1951 in Rome.

Since then, all important documents dealing with the programs of World Congresses, Symposia and General Assemblies are at disposal, either for historical studies or for stimulating effects or initiatives concerning the future objectives of the INTERNATIONAL SCIENTIFIC CENTRE OF FERTILIZERS (CIEC).