

GCIRCBUL10*02

From the President

In June 1993 a successful GCIRC-Technical Meeting was held at the Royal Veterinary and Agricultural University in Copenhagen. During the course of the five sessions, which focused on plant breeding, phytotechniques, rapeseed product uses, analysis and economics, some 50 excellent papers and posters were presented to delegates. The Technical Meeting was then followed by two interesting and very relevant visits to Novo Nordisk A/S and Bioraf-Denmark to see progress on enzyme processing. Many thanks are due to Dr. H.S. Sorensen and all his colleagues for their enthusiasm, commitment and sheer hard work which resulted in a very valuable meeting. Thanks are also due to Maribo Danisco for hosting the Conference banquet and to the other Danish companies whose sponsorship helped to support the meeting.

As is customary, the General Assembly of GCIRC and the Board meeting were held in conjunction with the Technical Meeting, and I was honoured to take over the Presidency from Dr. J.M. Bell. Dr. John Bell and his predecessors have set the highest standards and achieved much for GCIRC so I approach these new responsibilities with some apprehension. However, I also fully appreciate the great support that is provided through Mr André Pouzet as Secretary, from the Board and Assembly and not least from the UK Organising Committees for IRC's 95, so I look forward to my term of office and to the continuing success of GCIRC.

The General Assembly, amongst other issues, discussed the organisation and workings of the Technical Committees. It was agreed that an Economics Committee should be formed so that, along with the existing Breeding, Phytotechniques, Analyses and Rapeseed Products Committees, all topics of relevance to oilseed rape would be covered.

Arrangements for the Congress in Cambridge, which will be held from July 4. until July 7. 1995, continue to make good progress. The opening Plenary session will involve speakers from GATT and the European Commission and will deal with international issues. This will be followed by concurrent technical sessions covering : - Biotechnology and breeding ; Crop protection ; Agronomy and physiology ; Nutrition and chemistry ; and Industrial uses. It is intended to incorporate indepth reviews for each major specialist area within the papers read. Specific arrangements have been made and time allocated within the programme to ensure that poster presentations have equal standing to the read papers and that there is proper co-ordination between the two methods of presentation. The introduction of a demonstration field at Saskatoon was widely acclaimed and again in Cambridge we propose to offer companies the opportunity to have demonstration plots on varieties, chemical products, etc. Post-Congress tours of UK research and development centres conducting major programmes on oilseed rape are being organised. The location of the Congress in the heart of the historic University City of Cambridge and an interesting and very relevant programme give us confidence that IRC'95 will continue the success of the previous conferences and we look forward to welcoming a large attendance of delegates from all the countries involved in the production and utilisation of this crucial world crop.

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