

An Orchestra Conductor facing wonderful solists

Jacques MORICE

on receiving the Eminent Scientists Award
at the 9th International Rapeseed Congress, Cambridge (U.K.) July 4-7, 1995

Thank you, Dr. Mailer, for your very kind words on my past life with rapeseed. I must say we are not completely separate and have been living together for nearly 40 years. It has been a wonderful love story. Of course, we encountered many problems, but together, we found solutions for most questions.

I am very grateful to GCIRC for this award today and particularly for associating me with Keith Downey in that distinction. It is a great pleasure and an honour for me.

I consider that this award is not only for myself. All my career of genetist and plant breeder and the results I got have a large debt to many fruitful collaborations :

- first, of course, collaboration with scientists working on rapeseed in the INRA group, whose leader is now Michel Renard, who gave efficient impulse to some programs we initiated together ;
- collaboration with private breeding research, and I would like to mention here SERASEM and its general director, Georges Darrozes, associated with INRA for breeding rapeseed varieties since twenty years ;
- collaboration with French technical and professional organizations, AMSOL, PROMOSOL and CETIOM, which supported INRA laboratories involved in rapeseed research ;
- good harmony in the relationships between the scientific missions of INRA and the technical and developmental missions of CETIOM under the authority of its past director, Emile Choné, and of its present director, André Pouzet ;

• and last but not least, many international cooperations with foreign scientists from all over the rapeseed world. I am thinking here particularly of my oldest friends, who have been the pioneers of rapeseed research in their countries, Keith Downey and Baldur Steffanson in Canada, Jan Krzymanski in Poland, Gerhardt Röbbelen in Germany, Gösta Ollson in Sweden, and many other ones.

I have the feeling today that you reward one of the last representatives of a disappearing scientists' species, a kind of dinosaur, less adapted now to more drastic scientific conditions. Spectacular advance has been made over the last two decades in some fields of science, particularly in biochemistry, molecular biology and biotechnology. They led to the arrival of a new race of more and more specialised scientists (due to their formation, their knowledge, their sharp research and also the needs of their scientific career). And in front of such wonderful solists, it becomes more difficult to play the role of an orchestra conductor. However, even now and may be more now than before, efficiency of research in terms of translations into positive results for agriculture needs perfect harmony between the different actors of science.

And on the international level, the role of GCIRC and of International Rapeseed Conferences like this one is of the greatest importance as melting places for scientific contributions from all over the world, and all over the biological sciences. Thank you again to GCIRC for the Award and thank you for your attention.