

From the President

As we reach the half-way mark between International Rapeseed Congresses, our members' attention will be focused increasingly on Cambridge where the next Congress will be held. It will not be long before invitations and calls for papers will be in the mail. Let us all help to make the Ninth Congress the best ever !

In June 1993, the G.C.I.R.C.-meetings will be held in Copenhagen, Denmark, under the capable leadership of Dr. H. S. SORENSEN of the Chemistry Department, Royal Veterinary and Agricultural University. Such meetings are held mid-way between Congresses and provide several Technical Committees with opportunities to update research developments in their respective areas of concern. Four Technical Committees have been established : Breeding, Phytotechnics, Product Uses and Analyses.

The structure and operation of these Committees were discussed at length in the May 1992 G.C.I.R.C. meeting in Paris and several recommendations will be brought forward for approval in 1993. Under our Constitution, Committees may be created and disbanded at the pleasure of the Board of Directors, but the election and terms of office of chairpersons and vice-chairpersons were never defined but should be.

A new Committee on «Economics» or «Economics and Marketing» will be proposed. Recent experience has indicated that there are plenty of important issues to discuss in this area and our members generally realize that the «bottom line» for all of our research and development work is the market place. Increased profitability, reduced costs, better and more competitive products, environmental sensitivity, etc., all are our concerns and all have a definite economic «ring» to them. With appropriate guidelines, this Committee should concentrate on good scholarly, basic economic aspects and avoid becoming another GATT forum or where trade wars are waged ! The Saskatoon Congress proved this could be done.

The superior Scientist Award has now been awarded twice, first to Dr. B.R. Stefansson and secondly to Dr. Fu Ting-Dong, a plant breeder from the Peoples Republic of China. The Awards Committee, established a decade or so ago, has been retired and it is proposed that the chairpersons of the Technical Committees, together with the G.C.I.R.C.-President, comprise the new Awards Committee. Some changes in procedure for nominating candidates are also being proposed.

Changes are occurring outside of the G.C.I.R.C. as well. We will hear more about such matters in Copenhagen in June. Strong interest is evident in genetically modifying rapeseed oil to accommodate new market niches. Biotechnology is playing a major role in this . Developing rapeseed/canola strains with built-in resistance to diseases and parasites is receiving much attention. Non-food uses for the oil is an active area of research.

One cannot help but marvel at the phenomenal developments during the past several decades of research on rapeseed in all of its many aspects. As I now conclude my role as your President, I do so at one of the most exciting times in the history of rapeseed research and development. It has been an honor, a privilege and a pleasure to serve as President. The persons who helped make my job easier are too numerous to mention but I would especially like to thank Mr. E. Choné and more recently, Dr. A. Pouzet of the Paris office of G.C.I.R.C. for their assistance and advice. I also thank the many volunteers who assisted so generously in planning and staging the Congress in Saskatoon in 1991.

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