

THE PRESIDENTS' INTRODUCTORY SPEECH

Your Royal Highness, Mr Governor, Ladies and Gentlemen

I have the honour, on behalf of the Organizing Committee of the 5th International Rapeseed Conference, to greet you all, participants and guests, most heartily welcome.

First of all I address this welcome to His Royal Highness Prince Bertil. It is, indeed, a great honour and pleasure for the organizers of this conference, as well as for all participants from Sweden and abroad that you have come here today to open this conference. I take your presence here as a proof that you have the same profound interest in Swedish agriculture and the food supply of our nation as your venerable father. Once again, a warm and respectful welcome to your Royal Highness.

I have also to extend a warm welcome to our Minister of Agriculture, Mr Anders Dahlgren. We appreciate very much that you, in spite of your many obligations, have been able to come here today to inform the participants of the conference about the situation for rapeseed cultivation in Sweden and its significance for todays' agriculture and food industry.

I want to direct a special welcome to our county governor, Mr Nils Hörjel, and the representatives of the town of Malmö. They will be the hosts of the conference participants at the reception in the castle of Malmöhus later today.

At the opening ceremonies here, we have also representatives of various state authorities, civil service departments and universities with connection to Swedish agriculture and food industry. You are all most heartily welcome.

Already now I want to thank those organizations, in first hand our government, which have made this conference possible through different grants, and I welcome their representatives, present here today.

It is a great pleasure to greet all our foreign conference participants, representing 27 countries from all parts of the world, most heartily welcome.

In this context I would like particularly to mention and welcome the members of GCIRC, the international organization behind the international rapeseed conferences.

Speaking for the organizers of this conference I hope for a very good outcome of the lectures, discussions and excursions listed in the conference program. May I now request Your Royal Highness to open the 5th International Rapeseed Conference.