

H.R.H. PRINCE BERTIL'S ADDRESS AT THE OPENING CEREMONY

Rapeseed ranks number five among oilseeds in the world and is the only one that is grown favourably in all major parts of the world.

The cultivation of rapeseed for oil production has a long history leading back thousands of years in China and India.

The introduction in 1939 of the oil crops in the Swedish crop husbandry can be considered as the most important event after the introduction of the sugar-beet in Sweden in the 1870s.

There are also many other countries which have started the growing of rapeseed after World War II. I want to point out Canada where rapeseed, a completely new crop, in a short time gained great importance and extension.

In some countries where rapeseed was grown early, for instance Germany, Poland and France, this crop became of increasing importance in the 1950s, whereas in some countries, e.g. United Kingdom and Australia, efforts are made to increase the growing of rapeseed in the future.

For all these countries either having an important production already or trying to increase the growing of rapeseed research aiming at the solution of the problems connected herewith is of the greatest importance.

In some countries, situated at or near the northern limit for growing of rapeseed like Sweden, Finland and Canada it is very important that the plant breeding can produce varieties which have early maturity, winter hardiness and general adaptability to severe conditions. For all countries where rapeseed is grown there is a mutual interest that research will result in a quality improvement of the products, the oil and the meal, in order to correspond completely to the demands of the modern food and feed industries and the consumers.

In recent years research on rapeseed cultivation techniques and the qualities of the products has increased considerably, not only in the countries earlier mentioned but also in countries growing rapeseed since ancient times like India and China.

In the research work it is of the greatest importance to have a cooperation between nations and an open contact between researchers. International conferences of the kind we have come to join here today are of great advantage in this connection. It will give the specialists the opportunity to meet and to exchange information thus stimulating them and give them new ideas for more progressive research.

International rapeseed conferences have earlier been held in Poland, France, Canada and the Federal Republic of Germany. This 5th conference is arranged in Sweden, and for our country it is a great pleasure that so many, 400 participants and accompanying persons from 27 countries accepted the invitation to come here to Malmö today.

On the conference programme around 150 papers are listed to be read in four session rooms simultaneously during three days. In addition there will be excursions to our plant breeding institutes and industries in the region. We also hope you will be able to see part of this beautiful country and learn a little about its history.

I know that plant breeding research and industrial technology has a high standard in our country and I am convinced that this conference will be fruitful, like the four preceeding conferences it will efficiently promote research on rapeseed products in Sweden as well as in other countries.

With this expectation I declare the 5th International Rapeseed Conference in Malmö opened.