F o r e w o r d

Dear Reader,
Dear Colleagues,

A sufficient and healthy nourishment of mankind is a fundamental goal for agricultural sciences and research,and a view into the past for programming the future is often a helpful tool.
As plants are the primary source of nourishment for humans and animals,sufficient plant production is a necessary measure for our survival.
One of the first who recognized and pointed out this fact very precisely in a scientific manner,was Justus von LIEBIG.His world-famous book "Organic Chemistry in Its Application to Agriculture and Physiology" (1840) laid down the fundamentals of one of the most important scientific disciplines responsible for the fate and welfare of mankind: AGRICULTURAL CHEMISTRY.
In this book he established the equation of plant nutrient demand in relation to crop yield under conditions of a sustainable management of land-use systems - namely,the necessity of replacing plant nutrients,continuously removed from the soil through cropping,by means of fertilizers in an adequate form and way.
If fertilizers are not used,the cultivated soil will be exhausted of plant nutrients and the yield strongly reduced only after a few years,with the unavoidable consequence of detiorating soil fertility .
It is estimated that without the application of fertilizers ,only one-fourth of the present world population could be nourished satisfactorily.
According to LIEBIG`s law,a controlled use and qualified application of fertilizing materials is needed to maintain nutrient equilibrium in the soil-plant system.In this context,fertilizers play a rationally justified role in a successful fight against hunger.

Since its foundation,the INTERNATIONAL SCIENTIFIC CENTRE OF FERTILIZERS (CIEC) concerns itself steadily with such a sustainable management according to the fundamental law of plant nutrition and crop production.
In realization of this aim,CIEC has considered international conferences - especially organized as World Congresses and Symposia (the latter more under regional aspects) - as suitable and effective tools for a scientific discussion of actual fertilizer problems with respect of economic importance and ecological consequences.
In the past the progress of fertilizer chemistry and technology, as well as evaluation and calibration questions,played and essential role beside the development of chemical and biological analytical methods of soil testing for fertilizer assessment and efficient application procedures of fertilizing measures.
The improvement of soil fertility and crop quality were additional conference items,of which an international exchange of scientific results and experience was considered a valuable contribution to the progress in crop production needed for the steady growth of the world population.