

## Welcoming address

G. ALLEWELDT

Ladies and Gentlemen,  
dear friends and colleagues:

On behalf of the Organizing Committee I have the honour to welcome all guests and participants of the Vth International Symposium on Grape Breeding.

In particular I welcome

- Dr. PADBERG, who is representing our Federal Minister of Food, Agriculture and Forestry, Mr. KIECHLE, Bonn
- State Minister ZIEGLER, Ministry of Agriculture, Viticulture and Forestry, Mainz and our colleague
- Professor FREGONI, Vice-president of the O.I.V., who represents the Office International de la Vigne et du Vin, Paris.

This Symposium is the fifth in the series and is intended to provide an opportunity for exchange of information between workers from all over the world, to discuss and evaluate advances in grape breeding and to share their expertise.

I welcome the members of the International Symposium on Clonal Selection who decided to be part of the body of this Symposium.

Viticulture is and has always been accompanied by a desire to improve the vine and its product for the benefit of both the producer and the consumer. Thus, improvements in viticulture and in new cultivars are still factors which govern the prosperity of viticulture world-wide.

Nowadays, having hardly recovered from the catastrophe caused by mildew and phylloxera which befell Europe's vineyards in the last century, new challenges have to be faced:

- 1) The environmental stress caused by the use of agrochemicals urges the utilization of genes resistant to pests and diseases in order to underpin our efforts to introduce integrated pest control.
- 2) The maintenance and evolution of genetic resources is the essential prerequisite for the protection of future requirements of grape breeders.
- 3) An unavoidable improvement of fruit and wine quality, an overproduction of wine and table grapes in some regions and the unavailability of adapted cultivars in others (particularly in the tropics and subtropics), requires urgent breeding attention.
- 4) The existing new possibilities offered by gene technology must be introduced into breeding programs.

These problems can only be solved through the comprehensive exchange of research information and by international cooperation.

May this Symposium renew the spirit of challenge in vine breeding, tighten the bonds of friendship and encourage all of us to face and to surmount the forthcoming demands.

I am personally saddened to have to tell you of the recent death of two of our colleagues: Prof. Dr. DARIS of Greece and Dr. FÜRJ of Hungary.

We had hoped to welcome them to this Symposium but this was not to be.

In conclusion I want to express my gratitude to our Federal Minister for his generous financial support, to the many sponsors of our Symposium, to the Office International de la Vigne et du Vin, Paris, for taking over patronage, and last but not least, to all members of my staff who have helped in the organization of this conference.

Let us have inspiring discussions and, to speak in terms of breeding, let us sow new seeds to enter and surmount the challenges of the forthcoming 21st century.

I declare the 5th Symposium on Grape breeding open !