

SPEECH OF A.A. GOLTSOV, THE USSR
DEPUTY MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE,
PRESIDENT OF THE ORGANIZING COM-
MITTEE THE VIIth INTERNATIONAL SUN-
FLOWER CONFERENCE

Comrades,
Ladies and Gentlemen,

Allow me on behalf of the USSR Organiz-
ing Committee to cordially welcome you, parti-
cipants and guests at the VIIth International
Sunflower Conference, and sincerely to wish
you fruitful work and pleasant stay in our
country.

The Organizing Committee has fulfilled a
great deal of preparatory work for this confe-
rence and strived to arrange its programme in
such a way that the participants were able to
have thorough discussions and a wide exchan-
ge of views on urgent scientific and economic
problems.

The programme includes 170 reports whose
theses were published in Russian and English
and distributed among all participants of the
Conference.

Sunflower is becoming more popular in the
world. One demonstration of this is the pre-
sent Conference which is attended by 422 re-
presentatives from 30 countries of the world.

As usual, European countries take the lead
in sunflower and sunflower oil production.

The programme gives the pride of place to
reports made by Soviet, Bulgarian, Romanian,
Yugoslavian, French, Italian and Spanish
scientists and experts. In these countries sun-
flower is grown on an extensive scale and
much attention is paid to the relevant re-
search.

A trend towards increasing sunflower pro-
duction is observed in the USA, Afghanistan,
Canada, in some countries of South Africa
(Kenya, Morocco, Tanzania), in some Asian

countries (Turkey, Iraq, Pakistan), and in Australia. Scientists of these and other countries where sunflower is grown and processed will also report at this conference.

The USSR Organizing Committee expresses gratitude to all scientists and production workers who have responded to our proposal to take part in the work of the VIIth International Sunflower Conference. We are confident that a successful implementation of the Conference programme will promote a further development of research and higher production of this valuable farm crop.

The USSR Organizing Committee did its best to provide a favourable and businesslike atmosphere for the work of the Conference. We cannot but comment a great contribution made by our foreign colleagues, members of the International Sunflower Committee now the International Sunflower Association. We are sincerely thankful to you for that.

We hope that co-operation on sunflower among scientists and experts from different countries will further develop within the framework of the International Sunflower Association which is being set up. During the conference, the Executive Committee of the International Sunflower Association will meet in session to consider further trends of co-operation in this field.

The programme of the Conference and theses of reports having been given to all the participants, a preliminary examination of these materials will make it possible for all to take an active part in discussing the reports. We hope that representatives from different countries will find mutual understanding in discussing programme questions.

In our view a valuable addition to the programme is an exhibition organized within the framework of the Conference. It features achievements in sunflower production in the USSR

and results of relevant scientific research carried out in this country. The exhibition will enable the foreign scientists to obtain more information on the production of this crop in the USSR, which occupies the first place in the world in sunflower oil production.

Sunflower is given a due priority in the USSR. It is a we pay a great deal attention to sunflower the basic oil crop in the USSR. Three quarters of all vegetable oils in the USSR is made from the seeds of this crop, Sunflower acreage in this country has totalled 4.7-4.8 million hectares in recent years. To further increase production of commercial sunflower seeds is now largely possible due to the growth of yields. Hence we are faced with the task of further increasing the productivity of this crop. This can be achieved through a further development of research work aimed at breeding new and highly productive varieties and hybrids resistant to dangerous diseases and pests and at elaborating highly efficient methods of cultivation.

Studies of heterosis breeding have recently gone apace in this country. Great importance therefore attaches to international co-operation in exchanging initial breeding materials, inbred lines possessing cytoplasmic male sterility and fertility restorers.

We are grateful to foreign scientists who take an active part in joint sunflower breeding and who have sent a valuable initial material contributing to our genofund. We hope that further co-operation in this field will yield fruitful results.

It is common knowledge that Soviet breeders, chiefly Academician V.S. Pustovoit, have created world-famous sunflower varieties populations Peredovik, Smena, Armavirsky 3497 and Salyut. This trend in plant breeding will be further developed in this country, for far from all reserves have been used in this respect.

Scientists face challenging tasks in further studying sunflower **biology** and its genetic, physiological and biochemical traits.

We believe that discussion of questions relating to sunflower cultivation technology will be of much interest to the participants, though of course technological peculiarities depend on the specific soil and climatic conditions in different countries.

Co-operation among countries in the field of mechanization of sunflower growing and technology of sunflower seed processing can be especially fruitful because there is much in common in the ways of solution to these problems.

Discussion of these questions at the Conference will no doubt give an impetus to a further development of co-operation among nations and will contribute to the increased production of foodstuffs.

According to the Conference programme and tourist routes the foreign participants are welcome to go on excursions to get to know our country better. We hope that your visit in the USSR will be both useful and pleasant.

Our Lady's Committee has prepared an interesting and varied programme for ladies. We hope that this programme will help them have a good time and keep good remembrances of the visit to the Soviet Union.

In conclusion allow me to wish all participants and guests of the Conference a success in carrying out its vast and diverse program.