

A.V. Pukhalsky, USSR

GREETINGS TO THE CONFERENCE  
FROM THE V.I. LENIN ALL-UNION  
ACADEMY OF AGRICULTURAL  
SCIENCES

Esteemed ladies and gentlemen,  
Comrades,

Allow me, on behalf of the Presidium of the Lenin All-Union Academy of Agricultural Sciences to greet you, scientists from many countries, who have devoted their lives to the great cause of enhancing the potential productivity of sunflower, a major oil crop.

We are especially glad to note that this representative forum had gathered in Krasnodar, the city in which the outstanding scientist Vasily Stepanovich Pustovoit lived and worked for many years.

His effort has been widely acclaimed the world over and the varieties he created have helped to raise the oil percentage of marketable sunflower seeds from 28.6 to 47%, that is more than 50% over. Sunflower varieties were created with the unheard-of oil content of 50% and more.

This served as an impetus for the expansion of areas under this crop both in this country and abroad. Sunflower is gaining in importance in France, the United States, Romania, India and other countries.

The VIIIth International Sunflower Conference which is opening today is a landmark in the history of sunflower research, in particular in the sphere of genetics, breeding and seed production.

We are sure that the exchange of opinions on the reports to be presented will help define the further ways of investigation and specify co-operation programmes between the scientists of various countries.

We are proud that Soviet scientists have made an important contribution to the world science of sunflower.

Owing to this, this country can be justifiably called the homeland of cultivated sunflower. More than twenty institutions conduct research into sunflower, the basic oil crop in the USSR. Selection is developing apace, cultivation methods are being improved and new mechanisation devices are being created.

In recent years Soviet breeders have created a number of highly productive varieties whose qualities are better than those of the varieties regionalised earlier.

The use of heterosis in selection is of a considerable importance for raising sunflower productivity. The relevant research can be even more successful if scientists from many countries pull their efforts in this field.

In the USSR several scientific institutions conduct the pertinent research according to a comprehensive programme. This helps accelerate the selection of interlinear and variety-line hybrids with a high productivity and resistant to various pathogenes. Immunity breeding is of special importance, since it safeguards the crops from pests and diseases. Soviet breeders concentrate on the creation of sunflower varieties/populations with a high productivity and comprehensive immunity.

Improved technology for the production of oil-seeds is of no less importance. A variety can fully realise its potentialities and give high and stable yields provided there is an appropriate agronomy.

Sunflower is a very promising crop since it is a source of both high-quality vegetable oil and quality albumen. The many advantages of this crop are not however used with top efficiency. Today world agriculture is faced with a challenging task of boosting farm output so as to meet the people's needs.

The 25th Congress of the Communist Party of the Soviet Union has adopted a giant programme of a steady growth of agriculture and the Soviet people have taken this decision as a binding plan for our forward movement. Science is to play an important role in this effort. We are happy to say from this rostrum that the ninth five-year plan was very efficacious in the field of sunflower research. New varieties have been created, including inter-specific hybrids resistant to many dangerous diseases, and an improved technology has been devised to decrease labour inputs many times over. Seed-growing is being improved and transferred to an industrial basis. Our conference will no doubt make a new step forward along these lines.

Let me once again greet you on the Krasnodar soil on behalf of the Academy and wish the Conference successful work and a further strengthening of collaboration in this field among scientists of different countries.