## **FOREWORD**

## **SYMPOSIUM: DROUGHT TOLERANCE IN SUNFLOWER**

The aim of this ISA-Symposium is to circulate information and open the way to discussion on research themes dealing with several scientific topics. In fact, most international conferences are organized following a vertical thematic approach, little favourable to stress out a certain number of results the theoretical and practical importance of which cannot be denied.

The Symposium on Drought Tolerance was made up of the following papers and took place in the framework of the 14th International Sunflower Conference in Beijing on June 14, 1996.

The publication of these communications will allow readers to be informed of recent knowledge concerning the physiological bases of drought tolerance. The validation of these texts is the next step before field evaluations. Lastly, we will not forget that all new products born out of research must find their applications in cropping systems characterized by specific constraints and objectives. That is the opening we were looking forward to with the last paper.

We shall note that most authors of this Symposium are European research workers, which corresponds to the fulfilment of several research programmes sponsored by the EU and does not express a personal wish from ISA to give some priority to a geographic area, even if Mediterranean countries are particularly concerned by crop adaptations to dry weather conditions. Our intention for the future would be to organize again a new meeting on this topic which would then take all studies and research work carried out all over the world on this topic into account.

We hope that our readers will find interesting information in this publication and would like to thank authors for their contribution.

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