

Foreword

It has been 26 years since the 8th International Sunflower Conference was held at the Leamington Hotel, Minneapolis, Minnesota, USA on July 24-26, 1978. At that time sunflower was the second largest world source of vegetable oil. It is now the fifth largest oilseed produced. In 2003 sunflower seed production represented 10 percent of the combined world production of the six major vegetable oils. Its market share has been steadily declining due to the increased production of palm and soybean oils. Sunflower yields have declined progressively since 1993, most likely due to the relocation of production to lower yielding regions. Research is the key to making and keeping sunflower an economically viable global crop. The Proceedings of the 16th International Sunflower Conference reflects the wide array of topics being researched around the world. The Conference is an excellent opportunity for the sunflower community to gather and share research findings and discuss related issues. More important, it provides a forum to define research priority and development needs. The manuscripts in the Proceedings have been edited for uniformity of style, but not for their content. The contents of the manuscripts are the responsibility of the author(s). The manuscripts in the Proceedings should be considered privileged communications and should not be reprinted in part or in total without the expressed consent of the author(s) involved. The Organizing Committee would like to especially thank Ms. Marjorie A. Olson, USDAARS, Sunflower Unit, Fargo, ND for her excellent editorial assistance in the preparation of this Proceedings. Ms. Brenda Fradet, USDA-ARS, Sunflower Unit, Fargo, ND also assisted with the preparation of manuscripts for the Proceedings. Lastly, the Organizing Committee would like to express our appreciation to all the authors for their quality manuscripts for the Proceedings. Without their effort and interest these Proceedings would not have been possible.

Gerald J. Seiler,
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