

## FOREWORD

Since the inception of the International Society of Tropical Root Crops and the holding of the First International Symposium on Tropical Root Crops on 2–8 April, 1967 in the University of the West Indies at St. Augustine, Trinidad, a lot of interest has been generated on this usually neglected group of crops which can potentially contribute significantly more, if well managed, efficiently produced and utilized, to the solution of food shortage problems in the humid and sub-humid tropics. This is evidenced by the very large number of papers that has been presented by scientists from almost all parts of the globe in the areas of agronomy, genetics, breeding, improvement, socio-economics, plant protection, storage and processing, etc. during the Third Symposium held at Ibadan in December 1973, the proceedings of which are documented here. It is hoped that these proceedings will constitute reference and information material on root crops as its predecessors have done.

It is regretted that due to a lot of unforeseen developments, it was not possible to publish these proceedings at the time anticipated before the proceedings of the Fourth Symposium which has already been published. As a result of the importance of the data presented during the Third Symposium, it is still necessary that the proceedings are published and made available to the scientific community however late the delay and despite the disappointments and inconveniences that have been suffered by authors of the papers that have been held up.

The Society wishes to express its appreciation to Dr. William K. Gamble, Director General of IITA, for exceptional interest he has shown in the activities of the Society and the necessary actions he took to commit resources of IITA in assisting the Society to ensure that the proceedings of the Third Symposium are published.

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