

EDITORIAL

The 3rd Symposium on Tropical Root Crops was announced in March 1973 and held at IITA at Ibadan, Nigeria from 2–9th December 1973. The Symposium received an enormous response reflecting the rapidly accelerating interest in the tropical root crops as a mainstay of food supply in tropical and equatorial countries. No less than 171 papers were submitted, including some which were specially invited.

In the event, in an overcrowded week, 123 participants read and discussed 86 papers in a programme arranged by Professor Lawrence Wilson under the chairmanship of Drs. S. Sadik, B.N. Okigbo, E.T. Terry, A.I. Akinrele and L.B. Rankine.

Clear instructions to authors had been provided in the announcing notice, requesting papers of not more than 3,000 words with a 100 word abstract and completed copy was to be provided to the Society before leaving Ibadan. Nearly all the authors' submissions exceeded these guidelines in length and many scripts were received late. An editorial committee of officers of the Society strove to prepare papers for publication, but the task was a daunting one, and after long delays, the present editor was asked to undertake the role of preparing for publication those papers of which a sufficiently complete typescript was available. Dr. Bede Okigbo (IITA) was responsible for the selection of the papers, and they included all those actually presented at the Symposium of which complete copy had been provided. To any whose papers have been unduly distorted or compressed the editor offers apologies as well as to those whose papers, for one reason or another, have not been published.

The International Society wishes to acknowledge assistance from the International Development Research Center for travel fellowships which made it possible for 18 young scientists from various countries to attend the Symposium.

I would like to thank Professor Donald Plucknett, current President of the International Society for Tropical Root Crops, for encouragement in this task, and Mr. Raymond Woodis of IITA for liaison work. The figures have been prepared for publication at IITA. I would also especially like to thank Mrs. Susan Leakey who has typed the edited versions of the texts.

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