

## REPORTS

### **Second National Conference on “Achievements and Prospects of Water Relations and Mineral Nutrition of Plants in Bulgaria”**

Second National Conference on “Achievements and Prospects of Water Relations and Mineral Nutrition of Plants in Bulgaria” was held in October 2001 in Sofia. The conference was organized by Bulgarian Academy of Sciences, M. Popov Institute of Plant Physiology, National Centre for Agrarian Sciences, Union of Scientists in Bulgaria (the main sponsor of the conference) and Scientific-Technical Union of Experts in Agriculture.

110 participants from the whole country took part. Lectures and posters were presented. The Proceedings of the conference were published in advance and involved 53 contributions in Bulgarian language with English abstracts.

Participants of the conference made a survey of the current trends of investigation about water relations and mineral nutrition of plants in the following topics:

- 1) Water relation of plants, utilisation of water resources and adaptation to water stress.
- 2) Water relation of plants, mineral nutrition and quality of plant production.
- 3) Macroelements and trace elements-uptake, transport, distribution and utilization.
- 4) Mineral nutrition and simbiotic nitrogen fixation in leguminous plants.
- 5) Unbalanced mineral nutrition and stress reaction of plants.
- 6) Cultiver features of water exchange and mineral nutrition.
- 7) Ecology of water relation and mineral nutrition of plants.

Special attention was focused on the physiological and biochemical investigations in respect to agriculture in Bulgaria in irrigated and non-irrigated conditions, contemporary aspects of nitrate assimilations, molecular and ultrastructural alterations in plants influenced by toxic concentrations of heavy metals. It was underlined necessity of the improvement of coordination among the specialists of different Bulgarian scientific teams and extended national programme against the drought, soil pollution and toxic concentrations of mineral elements in agricultural products.

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