

Editorial news and events

Conference Report

The international conference on „Lupin in Polish and European agriculture” held in Przysiek near Toruń, Poland, 2-3 September 1999, was organized by the Polish Lupin Association, Agricultural Faculty of the Bydgoszcz University of Technology and Agriculture and the Regional Advisory Centre for Agricultural and Rural Development.

Eight review papers were presented during plenary session and 47 short communications were displayed as posters. In three papers the authors from Germany, Denmark and Portugal reviewed the present state and perspectives of lupin cultivation and utilisation in European Union and respective countries while Polish authors presented reviews on the progress in research on lupin anthracnose, world *Lupinus* gene resources, products from alkaloid-rich lupin, cultivation of lupin in cereal-leguminous mixtures and the report from International Lupin Conference at Klink (Germany).

The communications covered selected topics on regional status of lupin cultivation in Poland, genetics breeding, physiology, diseases and utilisation tolerance.

It was stated that presently the main threat to lupin production in the severe fungal disease anthracnose which spreads rapidly all over the world and since two years is present also in Poland. The effective means of prevention and control of the disease are not yet available but the resistance-oriented breeding seems promising.

The possibility of utilization of alkaloid-rich lupin for production of protein concentrate dietary fibre and bio-active extracts was considered as an interesting alternative to sweet lupins. It was stressed that the interest in feed and food utilisation of lupins increases in Europe as the acceptability of genetically modified soya bean from United States is low.

Preliminary results of the experiments on the tolerance of pigs, chicken and rats to yellow lupin alkaloid graminal indicate for the possibility of inclusion high levels of this lupin into the diets without unpairment of growth performance.