WELCOMING ADDRESS
At the 16th World Fertilizer Congress of CIEC
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Rio de Janeiro, Brazil

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Distinguish Participants,

As Honorary President since 2010 and President in the period 1996 - 2010 of the International Scientific Centre of Fertilizers, known as Centre International des l’Engrais Chimiques (CIEC), as well as one of the steadfast member of CIEC since the 4th World Fertilizer Congress held in 1961 at Opatija, former Jugoslavia, I have the honor, privilege and great pleasure to address to all of you distinguished participants at this remarkable event, the hearted words of welcoming and thanks for sharing together valuable knowledge, new results and experience acquired on fertilizer application and production and their benefits for a sustainable and performing agriculture, to assuring food security for 7.3 billion people leaving on the EARTH.

First of all I should like to emphasize that CIEC was conceived as a non-governmental and non-profit international society, functioning like a cornerstone between scientist, academic society, fertilizer industries, trade companies, agricultural consulting and other fertilizer-minded institutions or persons.

During its 80 years existence, CIEC has organized 23 symposia, many conferences and 15 World Fertilizer Congresses, four years rotation, Rio being the 16th, aiming to promote new and promising fundamental and applied approaches, to facilitate the multidisciplinary co-operation for a more comprehensive knowledge in soil fertility, plant nutrition, fertilizer production and utilization.

The proceedings of the symposia and congresses were published, resulted in a significant collection of information on nutrient management for food and biomass production, while ensuring the rational use of natural resources involved in agriculture, at local, regional and global level.

I wish to stress once again that during its long life, CIEC has operated as a „brain trust” and it will carry on this duty in the future, in the complex context of ecological and economic crises and progressive increase of world population with its enhancing demands.

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At the XVth World Fertilizer Congress held in 2010, in Bucharest, Romania, Brazil was unanimously elected as host country for the 16th World Fertilizer Congress.

I strongly believe that this decision was highly inspired, taking into account the magnificent beauty of Brazil, its surface and population placed on the 5th place in the world, a country with a great powerful development, implying economic and social dimensions.

Due to a considerable financial support allocated to science, the fast economic growth have been possible in Brazil over the last two decades.

In its history, the Brazilian Science has already produced fundamental impacts in economy, especially in agriculture, becoming the largest exporter of products in the world, being in the top three producers of soybean, maize, sugar, fruits, beef and poultry.

The agricultural science infusion in agriculture has been facilitated by EMBRAPA Corporation, that also deserves our warm gratitude for its involvement in the organization of this Congress.

I would like to address special thanks and gratitude to dr. Ladislau Martins, Embrapa director and dr. Vinicius Benites, the President of the 16th World Fertilizer Congress and to their team, for the great efforts for a perfect organization of the 16th WFC.

I am sure that not many participants knows that Brazil was, together with Romania, in 1933, two of the 29 world founding countries of CIEC and Rio Congress represent the FIRST CIEC World Fertilizer Congress organized in Latin American Continent, XVth being organized in 2010 in Bucharest, Romania. I am really proud for this achievement and I do appreciate very much the responsibility and success of Brazilian Colleagues, as well as of the Romanian Scientists, taking the difficult duty and responsibility to organize World Fertilizers Congresses in the period in which many “environmentalists” and “green organization” are strongly against mineral fertilizers production and utilization. We do strongly believe that with out replacement of nutrients taken up by the plants from the soil at crop harvesting the soil nutrient mining will be a disaster for the soil fertility and for food security at local, regional and global level. How we can satisfied the needs for the 7.3 million peoples and for future increasing world population?

Brazil is a great example for agriculture progress and achievements. In my opinion, the Brazilian successes in agriculture can be explained by introducing in the agricultural practices of the result received in research, as well as also by
showing a high commitment in crop biotech adoption in the country. A recent survey for the 2014/15 crop season, shows a total area of 42.2 million hectares being planted with biotech crops, mainly with soybean, crop which reach more than 30 million hectares, with adequate cropping technologies, including fertilizer application.

The benefits for farmers of new GM technologies are impressive, consisting in high yield levels, reducing agrochemical treatments and enabling easier management practices. We should not forget that by cultivating such a large area of soybean, the Brazilian farmers benefit of more than 1 million tons of N, free of charge, by Biological Nitrogen Fixation, fulfilling the dream of the well known Brazilian Scientist Johana Doberainer, with whom I cooperated in the 1970’ on research in the area of BNF, including free living microorganisms.

As a final reason taking in view for the location of the 16th World Fertilizer Congress is the fact that Brazilian agriculture can be considered the most advanced countries for a sustainable development in tropical conditions, so the Congress theme “Technological Innovation for a Sustainable Tropical Agriculture” could not be better accommodated. Every country would benefit of Brazilian agricultural experience for developing proper sustainable agricultural systems in a climate with warming trend.

Please allow me distinguish participants to conclude rendering respects to the remarkable founders of CIEC, to their successors, to the CIEC President, Prof Ewald Schnug, who will be Keynote Speaker at this Opening Session Ceremony, to the Presidium members and to the new generations for the contributions brought in the benefit of food security and safety, for preservation of a clean environment and paving the road for the peace in the world!

Once again, MANY THANKS AND GRATITUDE to the Brazilian scientists, to the Brazilian farmers, to all the participants at WFC Congress, and the last but not the least

To the Emprapa Executive Director Ladislau Martins and to the CONGRESS Organizing Committee, to its President Dr. Vinicius BENITES, for the efforts made in the excellent organization of the Rio de Janeiro, XVIth WFC