

## FOREWORD

The International Symposium on Tropical Root Crops developed from an idea which originated in the Department of Agriculture, Crop Production, of the University of the West Indies in February, 1965. Because of the importance of the starchy roots and tubers as food in tropical countries and the emphasis placed by the University on relevant research, it was considered highly desirable that an attempt be made to collate existing information on these crops in order to identify gaps in our knowledge, make plans to fill these and also establish bases for practices aimed at economically expanding production and utilization.

Participation of scientists from different parts of the world was sought and made possible by the financial assistance given by internationally known organisations — The Rockefeller Foundation and the British Council — as well as others with local interests — Ministry of Agriculture, Lands and Fisheries of Trinidad and Tobago, Friends of the University, the Industrial Development Corporation, Trinidad Chamber of Commerce, Shell Trinidad Ltd., Texaco Trinidad Inc., Antilles Chemical Co., Chase Manhattan Bank, First National City Bank, Bank of Nova Scotia, Boots Pure Drug Co., Ltd., International Foods Ltd., H. E. Robinson & Co., Ltd., Empire Sales and Agencies Ltd. The contributions received covered all aspects of root crops production and use and were grouped under six headings as follows:

- I. Breeding and Improvement
- II. Physiology and Nutrition
- III. Agronomy
- IV. Crop Protection
- V. Economics
- VI. Storage, Processing and Utilization.

The Symposium was held at St. Augustine, Trinidad, on 2-8 April, 1967. A total of 157 individuals from 30 countries took part and 56 papers were read.

The participants were welcomed to Trinidad by the Hon. L. M. Robinson, Minister of Agriculture, Lands and Fisheries, and to the university campus by the Pro Vice-Chancellor, Dr. H. D. Huggins. The Hon. L. M. Robinson also opened the technical sessions. In addition to the six sections of the Symposium there were meetings of seven Study Groups and on the last day a Plenary Session.

These Proceedings endeavour to present an account of the papers delivered and the ensuing discussions. In the course of editing it was found desirable to rearrange the order of papers somewhat but in no instance was there any alteration of the content. The bulk of the work of editing fell on my co-editors as follows:

Sections I, VI	— W. B. Charles
Sections II, III	— P. H. Haynes
Section IV	— E. F. Iton
Section V	— K. A. Leslie

I must, however, accept responsibility for arrangement of the Introduction.

Presentation of the Proceedings in two Volumes was dictated by the amount of material to be published; Volume I. Contains the Introduction and Section I to III. Volume II contains Section IV to VI.

EGBERT A. TAI,  
April, 1969.