

## PREFACE

Crop site – land use synergism. After being expelled from garden of Eden, man had to work with land to earn his living. „In the sweat of thy face shalt thou eat bread, till thou return unto the ground; for out of it wast thou taken: for dust thou art, and unto dust shalt thou return. Therefore the Lord God sent him forth from the garden of Eden, to till the ground from whence he was taken.” (Gen. 3.). Since that, all along the history the success of producing food is based on a synergism of crop site and land use.

Land use is a sort of harmonization between crop plant requirements and production site characteristics:

- Coordination of production site (Optimization of cropping structure).
- Adaptation of crop plants to production site characteristics (breeding tasks).
- Adaptation of production site to crop plants (agronomy, amelioration).
- Establishment of optimal and homogenous fields adapted to natural conditions; suitable infrastructure (roads, ditches, avenues).
- Organic material switch-back from production to natural processes (recycling).
- Prevention, elimination or reduction of soil degradation processes.
- Preservation and storage of necessary amounts of water in soil.
- Plant nutrition in accordance with plant uptake dynamics, soil properties, climatic conditions and moisture regime.
- Control of soil pollution processes.

This conference is organised by three committees of the Hungarian Academy of Sciences; the Crop Production Committee, the Plant Protection Committee and the Soil Science and Agrochemistry Committee. The workshop is dedicated to the Alps-Adria movement providing a bridge to science and people of the region. The task of the conference is to overview research activities and experimental results in the field of crops site and land use relations; antagonism and synergism.

Ten years' anniversary. This conference is now the 10<sup>th</sup> in the series of the Alps-Adria scientific workshops. The Alps-Adria scientific cooperation programme, including a series of events referred to as 'Alps-Adria Scientific Workshop', has its roots in a very distant past. In emotional terms it dates back perhaps as far as to the times of the Austro-Hungarian Monarchy, but reliably it originates from the 1970s or 1980s, a period of traditionally good cooperation between scientists and other professionals of the region, a period of scientific, practical and business relationships managed by universities and agricultural institutions. In the year 2002 the Alps-Adria conference was first organised by committees of the Hungarian Academy of Sciences with active participation of the local scientific community. The first one was - if only to respect tradition - organised in Opatija, and then the venue of the event was gradually moved around the region: the second one was organised in Trogir, the third one in Dubrovnik, the fourth one in Portorož in Slovenia and then the next one back in Opatija. In year 2007 the conference was organised in Obervellach in Austria, to be followed by one in

Stará Lesná in the High Tatras in 2008. The eighth was hosted by Neum in Bosnia and Herzegovina, a most modest but perhaps the professionally best prepared location of that year. The last conference was held in Špičák, a mountainous resort place in the Czech Republic. And now returned back again to the roots to Opatija.



The host of the conference is the Grand Hotel Adriatic, the Queen of tourism on the Adriatic, a most experienced popular convention venue in Croatia. Situated in the beautiful surroundings of the Opatija Riviera this pearl of the sea will link science and leisure, touristic and intellectual interests. In the historical cauldron of Istria Greek, Roman, Celtic, Illyrian roots, Croatian, Hungarian, Turkish, Venetian and Austrian fruits of social and cultural heritage form a magic potion with such a unique spicy flavour that will force anyone to return here whoever tasted that once. Myths, legends and novels range from the story of the Argonauts, Jason, Medea and the quest for the golden fleece, to the everlasting adventures of Matthias Sandorff composed by Jules Verne. Music of the region is labelled by Tartini's baroque wonder as well as the folk songs of tamburska glazba. Natural beauty, Queen Elizabeth's Abbazia of dignity, the famous Croatian hospitality labels an atmosphere that provides conference participants with an unforgettable experience.

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