Opening Address by Dr. I. Szabolcs:

Dear Colleagues, Ladies and Gentlemen,

I should like to welcome all the participants of this opening session, first of all the Indian delegation headed by DR. J. S. P. YADAV, as well as DR. I. PÁL, representative of the Ministry of Agriculture and Food, DR. K. PANNONHALMI, representative of the Hungarian Academy of Sciences, DR. E. JUHÁSZ and DR. V. GÁTHY representing the Ministry of Culture and Education, and Mrs. M. SALGÓ, Secretary General of the Hungarian Commission for UNESCO.

It is a great pleasure for us that Indian and Hungarian soil scientists have gathered for the second time in a Joint Seminar on Salt Affected Soils, now in Budapest. We can only hope that it will be as sucessful and memorable an event in every respect as the first one held in Karnal was.

Please allow me to introduce briefly our Indian colleagues.

DR. J. S P. YADAV is the Director of the Central Soil Salinity Research Institute, Karnal, Vice-Chairman of the Subcommission on Salt Affected Soils of the International Society of Soil Science, and Vice-President of the Indian Society of Soil Science. Although he has studied several fields in soil science, most of his research work has been devoted to solving the problems posed by soil salinity and alkalinity. In recognition of his outstanding scientific achievements he has received several awards, and was elected a Fellow of the National Academy of Science of India. His more than 170 scientific papers have appered in Indian and foreign periodicals.

DR. N. T. SINGH is Head of the Department of Soils at Punjab Agricultural University. His research work has been concerned mainly with the reclamation of saline and alkali soils and he has studied also soil-water-plant relationships. He is the author of 120 scientific papers.

DR. K. BALAKRISHNA RAO, a soil scientist now working in the Saline Water Scheme at the Agricultural College in Dharwar, has devoted much time and energy not only to research work in the field of soil science and agricultural chemistry but also to teaching. He has published more than 40 papers.

DR. D. N. SHARMA, a soil scientist, is a member of the Department of Soils and Agricultural Chemisty of C. S. Azad University of Agriculture and Technology. A teacher as well as a research worker, he has been studying the various problems of soil salinity and soil chemistry.

The cooperation of Indian and Hungarian soil scientists started shortly after World War II, and it has intensified considerably since the early sixties. The mutual visits have become more and more frequent, many papers by Indian scientists have been published in Hungarian periodicals and numerous Hunga-

rian publications have appeared in Indian learned journals. Fellowships of longer or shorter duration have also been granted to quite a few Indian and Hungarian scientists. This has proved to be particularly useful from the point of view of coordinated research work. Several Indian colleagues carried out postgraduate research work in Hungary, and many of them obtained scientific degrees in recognition of their valuable accomplishments.

It is very important for us to develop our cooperation with the Indian colleagues even further in the research focused on the problems of salt affected soils. The Central Soil Salinity Research Institute in Karnal is a widely known and respected center of all kinds of investigations on soil salinity and alkalinity. All those who attended the International Symposium on Salt Affected Soils organized by this Institute last year remember the outstanding results achieved there both in theoretical and practical fields.

India has a large extent and a wide variety of salt affected soils, and is one of the countries which pay appropriate attention to the problems they pose. In Hungary we face similar problems, and the reclamation of saline and alkali soils, as well as the prediction and prevention of the occurrence of salinization and alkalization are just as essential for us as for our Indian friends. I sincerely hope that this Seminar will contribute to the eventual successful solution of these problems.

Thank you.