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PREFACE

The 33rd Annual Meeting of the Caribbean Food Crops Society (CFCS) with the theme “*Outlook of the Caribbean Agriculture on the Eve of a New Millennium*” was held at the Sands Hotel, Carolina, Puerto Rico from July 6 to 12, 1997. The College of Agricultural Sciences of the University of Puerto Rico, Mayagüez Campus, was the host institution. The 1997 meeting was highly successful as were the four previous meetings in Puerto Rico (1965, 1972, 1983 and 1990).

Our 33rd Annual Meeting began Sunday, July 6, with registration and a welcome activity at the hotel. The official meeting began Monday with the Opening Session and the Plenary Address delivered by Dr. Carlos Aquino, Executive Director of the Inter American Institute for Cooperation to Agriculture (IICA). Dr. Miguel A. Muñoz, Secretary of Agriculture of Puerto Rico, was the Keynote Speaker. There were 47 oral presentations (8 sessions) and 49 posters (1 session). With the attendance of 216 persons from 22 countries, it was the largest CFCS meeting ever held.

After three days of scientific sessions three concurrent field trips were made to different ecological zones and agroindustrial projects. Our meeting ended with a visit to the Puerto Rican Tropical Rainforest (EL Yunque).

To set up a meeting of this type requires a great amount of energy, coordination, and discipline. We would not be able to conduct it without the cooperation and dedication of an excellent group of professionals who formed the Organizing Committee and as our expression of thanks their names are included in The Proceedings. The Organizing Committee wants to express our appreciation to those who contributed to the success of this meeting: Dr. Norman Maldonado, President of the University of Puerto Rico and Dr. John Fernández Van Cleve, Dean and Director of the College of Agricultural Sciences. We are grateful for the sponsorship received from Dr. Miguel Muñoz, Secretary of Agriculture of Puerto Rico; the State Department of Puerto Rico; the Tourism Company of PR, Molinos de Puerto Rico Co , and Café Rico Co.

Lucas N. Avilés-Rodríguez
President

Nelson Semiday-Laracuenta
Scientific Presentations Committee