Preface

The Second International Symposium on Horticulture and Human Health compliments the subjects and issues raised in the first symposium, particularly the international dimensions of the fruits and vegetables contributions to human health. Recently, the increased emphasis on vitamin, mineral, and fiber intake in the human diet has played a significant role in promoting production and consumption of fruits and vegetables. Moreover, contributions of fruits and vegetables in improving farmers incomes and alleviating poverty in developing countries are being acknowledged.

To define subjects to be addressed, the Scientific Program Committee sought opinions of participants at the first symposium and other workers in the field of horticulture, medicine, human nutrition and international development. These subjects were collated in four sessions, with oral presentations in addition to a poster session. The following themes were selected: i) fruit and vegetable consumer preference, safety, and regulation; ii) fruit and vegetable contributions on disease control; iii) fruit and vegetable home gardeners with emphasis on nutrition in developing countries; and iv) biotechnology contributions to fruit and vegetable improvements.

Speakers were selected on the basis of their expertise and knowledge of areas to be addressed. Sufficient time was allocated to discussion panels. Participant and speaker interaction provided lively debates and a forward look to the role of fruits and vegetables to human health and well-being.

The generous support of various agencies, organizations, and individuals is deeply acknowledged by the organizing committee. We are specially indebted to the American Society for Horticultural Science for sponsoring the symposium and allocating needed funds, particularly for publishing this proceedings. Special thanks are due to the speakers and moderators who made the symposium possible. Last, but not the least, we extend our deep appreciation to the participants, whose presence, active involvement, and support was invaluable.

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