

Preface

When we initiated the idea of organising this symposium we had two objectives in mind: firstly to find out what exactly was going on in seed physiology in New Zealand and secondly, to attempt to bring scientists and the seed trade together to discuss how our developing understanding of seeds might contribute to practical benefits for New Zealand seed producers and seed users.

We were a little tentative at the beginning, wondering what kind of response we would get. The diverse range of papers and posters presented at the meeting showed that we needn't have worried: there is indeed plenty of interesting and valuable activity in seed science in this country. Support from the industry too, showed that New Zealand companies are keen to keep up with current research into the more fundamental aspects of seed biology. We believe that the symposium can be counted a success if it contributed to fostering those all-important links between research and the commercial world.

This publication is a record of that meeting and, despite its much delayed appearance (for which we apologise most sincerely!), will hopefully provide a valuable resource for those who want to find out more about the current directions of physiologically-based seed research here in New Zealand. To facilitate the continuing exchange of information and ideas we have included a directory of symposium participants and their interests at the end of this volume.

Our thanks for their initial effort and ensuing patience to those who contributed papers and posters to the meeting, and also to the companies and organisations who generously provided sponsorship for the symposium and this publication. We would especially like to thank Professor Michael Black from King's College, London University who presented the keynote address and contributed the foreword which follows.

Peter Coolbear and Clive A. Cornford
Massey University, December 1993.