

# Foreword

The First International Rice Genetics Symposium held at IRRI in May 1985 was attended by 200 scientists from 32 countries. The proceedings of the symposium, published in 1986 under the title *Rice Genetics*, contains an excellent summary of the knowledge then available concerning different aspects of rice genetics. One important outcome of the symposium was the decision to establish the Rice Genetics Cooperative (RGC) for promoting international cooperation in rice genetics. The RGC has played an important role in developing and promoting the use of standardized gene symbols and has been updating the linkage maps. It has assumed responsibility for publishing the Annual *Rice genetics newsletter* and for the maintenance and dissemination of rice genetic stocks.

During the First International Rice Genetics Symposium, it was decided to hold similar symposia periodically. The RGC established an international committee to organize the Second International Rice Genetics Symposium, held 14-18 May 1990. IRRI welcomed the opportunity of again hosting the symposium. Most of the preparatory work at IRRI was done by G. S. Khush, who served as organizing secretary with Y. Futsuhara, H. I. Oka, T. Kinoshita, and G. Toenniessen contributed advice and support in the preparation and implementation of symposium plans. The proceedings were edited by Dr. Stephen J. Banta, assisted by Mrs. Gloria S. Argosino.

The second symposium was attended by 300 scientists from 24 countries. About half the papers dealt with the molecular and cellular genetics of rice. This shows the increasing status of more fundamental studies on rice. It also emphasizes the progress made in biotechnology. An important outcome of this symposium was the decision to adopt a unified system of numbering rice chromosomes for linkage maps. This basic information on the Mendelian and molecular genetics of rice will be extremely useful in developing more productive rice cultivars for the 21st century.

IRRI will make all effort to be a partner to those who feel committed to use the latest knowledge and tools of biological science, specifically biotechnology, for the benefit of our ultimate target groups: the rural and urban poor whose staple food is rice.

Klaus Lampe  
Director General