

Seventh annual symposium held March 6

“Learning From Each Other: New Models for Sustainable Agriculture Research and Information,” was the topic for the seventh annual Institute symposium held in Washington, DC, on March 6, 1990. Keynote speaker Roland Bunch told participants that active farmers can multiply many times over the extent of research in sustainable agriculture. Bunch is the Central American Area Representative for World Neighbors, Inc.

Additional speakers included Gordon Watkins, organic farmer from Parthenon, Arkansas; Charles Francis, University of Nebraska Extension Specialist; Robert Miller, Dean at the University of Rhode Island; Richard Thompson, Iowa farmer and past president of the Practical Farmers of Iowa; John Gardner, Director of the Carington Research Extension Center at North Dakota State University; Kay Thornley, farmer from Davenport, California; William Lockeretz of Tufts University; Myron Johnsrud, Administrator of the Extension Service; and Richard Sauer, President of the National 4-H Council. William Liebhardt of the University of California, Michael Heller of the Chesapeake Bay Foundation's Clagett Farm, and Jerry DeWitt of Iowa State University moderated panels. Farmers Jim Bender of Nebraska and Ward Sinclair of Pennsylvania were respondents to the final panel discussion.

Papers from the symposium will be published in a forthcoming issue of the *AJAA*.

Mrs. Jean Douglas honored by IAA

Mrs. Jean Wallace Douglas, former President of the IAA Board of Directors, was honored at a special reception held on April 23, 1990, at the home of

Board Director Robert Blake in Washington, DC. A certificate naming Mrs. Douglas Lifetime Honorary President was presented by Executive Director Garth Youngberg. “There would not be an Institute today had it not been for your thoughtfulness, concern, and generosity,” said Board President Jerald DeWitt in his letter of recognition.

Francis, King co-editors of sustainable agriculture book

Charles A. Francis and Larry D. King, members of the *AJAA* Editorial Board, are co-editors of *Sustainable Agriculture in Temperate Zones*, published in 1990 by John Wiley and Sons. Cornelia Butler Flora of Virginia Polytechnic Institute and State University is the third editor. Three other *AJAA* Editorial Board members are represented in the book: Tom Edens, John Doran, and J. Patrick Madden. *AJAA* Technical Editor William Lockeretz is also the author of a chapter, and IAA Executive Director Garth Youngberg co-authored a chapter with Charles Francis. The book “reviews the current thinking about the philosophy of sustaining agriculture into the future,” the editors say in their preface.

Otto Doering of Purdue is Co-Chair of 1991 symposium

Otto Doering, Professor of Agricultural Economics at Purdue University, who has also been a 1990 visiting scholar at the USDA Economic Research Service, will join IAA Executive Director Garth Youngberg as Co-Chair of the Planning Committee for the 1991 IAA symposium. The symposium, scheduled for March 6, 1991, will focus on the true costs of food, including environmental and health factors.

“All societies pay for food, both directly at the consumer level, and indirectly, through government,” Doering says. “In addition, there may be costs to health, to the environment, or to the resource base that are mostly hidden from view. The focus of this conference will be on identifying these various costs and assessing their relative magnitudes. Citizens then will have the final say about how they want to pay for food and which costs they are willing to bear today.”

IAA supports \$50 million LISA budget for FY1991

The FY1991 USDA budget should expand funding for the Low-Input/Sustainable Agriculture Program (LISA) from \$4.45 million to \$50 million, IAA Executive Director Garth Youngberg said in April 1990 testimony to both House and Senate Agriculture Appropriations Subcommittees. The program has not only yielded research pointing to successful substitutions for farm chemicals, but fostered “a new model for cooperative research,” he said.

A portion of new funds could create a matching grant program to build federal-state partnerships, Youngberg suggested. A smaller amount could be used to develop state-level handbooks and field guides that incorporate information on such practices as rotations, nutrient management, and biological pest management.

Because some pesticides now under review may be banned, increased funding for research in biological pest control is also essential, Youngberg told the appropriations committees. He suggested \$5 million for accelerated research in biological controls. Youngberg also asked for \$3 million in support of the ATTRA hotline information service located at Fayetteville, Arkansas.

