

Editorial

Some years ago, when was decided to renovate *Agronomie* with an international editorial board, a new presentation and two scientifically independent sections, the objective was two fold. The first was to modify the image and improve the scientific standing of the journal. The second was to enable the two sections, since their aims and scopes do not overlap, to constitute two separate journals in the future, once the level had been stand up.

Since that decision, it can be considered that the first objective has been achieved with a constant increase of the impact factor which is now comparable to the one of well appreciated journals in the domain of agriculture. It is now possible to go to the second step consisting in the creation of two independent journals. As the subject matter covered by the section *Agriculture and Environment* can be more directly linked to agronomic practices, it appears natural and logical that it keeps the title and that *Agronomie* turns to *Agronomie: Agriculture & Environment*. This will be the case in 2001.

Accordingly, this issue of *Agronomie* will be the last one with papers from the *Plant Genetics and Breeding* section. However, contrary to the other section, it will not constitute an independent journal. For strategic and economic reasons, the solution proposed by the Scientific Direction of INRA, the owner and scientific editor, is to merge the section with the other INRA journal dealing with genetics: *Genetics, Selection, Evolution*. It is expected that some of the high quality papers, addressed previously to the *Plant Genetics and Breeding* section, will be published in this journal. Indeed *GSE* has the ambition to modify and open up its aims and scope to welcome papers dealing with the use in genetics and breeding of the new molecular tools arising from the emerging sciences of genomics, transcriptomics and proteomics.

Hervé Thiellement

Gérard Guyot

My involvement in *Agronomie* dates back in 1994 called by Max Rives to be the associated editor of the papers dealing with plant genetics and breeding. On the behalf of the Plant Genetics and Breeding Department of the INRA, and with the help of eminent members of its Scientific Council, we tried to restructurate, clarify and improve at different levels our journal. For this purpose meetings have been held, initiatives have been taken and numerous letters have been sent. It is rather satisfactory to observe that all that time spent doing this was not in vain since today, as yet written above, its impact factor is alike the one of *Euphytica* or *Plant Breeding*. It is time for me to let another, younger and thus more enthusiastic editor-in-chief, Christian Huyghe, to take in charge the still to construct future of the *Plant Genetics and Breeding* section and pursue further this adventure. The authors wishing to publish their work in the plant section of *GSE* can already send their manuscripts to him (Christian Huyghe, INRA, Unité de Génétique et d'Amélioration des Plantes Fourragères, 86600 Lusignan, France).

Many people have been of invaluable help in these last years and I take this opportunity to express my sincere thanks and my best wishes to all the authors, referees and members of the Editorial Board for the exciting and stimulating scientific and editing work we have accomplished together.

Hervé Thiellement