

WELCOME

It is our pleasure to welcome you all to the **II International Symposium on Acclimatization and Establishment of Micropropagated Plants** at the Mayan Riviera, Cancún, México.

In 2001 Prof. A. S. Economou organized the I International Symposium on Acclimatization and Establishment of Micropropagated Plants in Sani-Halkidiki, Greece with great academic achievements in a superb venue in Greece.

This 2004 we organized with the support of the International Society for Horticultural Science (ISHS), Commission of Biotechnology and Molecular Biology chaired by Dr. Carmine Damiano, the II International Symposium on Acclimatization and Establishment of Micropropagated Plants. We are sure that it will be an opportunity to discuss recent trends and advancements in this area.

Apart from micropropagated plants, we intend to expand this symposium to problems of acclimatization and establishment of other plants growing under similar *in vitro* conditions such as transformed plants, plants generated using somaclonal variation, etc. Additionally, we would like to explore the use of new tools like Functional Genomics, Proteomics, and Metabolomics to further investigate the behaviour of *in vitro* grown plants.

These new approaches will certainly add a deeper understanding to the highly complex interaction of those plantlets with their *in vitro* environment. We hope that our current knowledge, together with new studies of this type will provide a deeper understanding and a better control of the performance of *in vitro* grown plants during the acclimatization and establishment stages.

We have gathered experts from more than 25 different countries. We are convinced that you will enjoy our symposium surrounded by astonishing white-sand beaches and the marvellous colours of the Caribbean Sea in a superb resort with great facilities at the Mayan Riviera, Cancún, México.

¡¡Bienvenidos!!

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