

## SUMMARY OF SESSION II (AUDITORIUM B)

### *Genetic resources, conservation and utilization*

**Tuesday Nov. 3**

Moderated by **M. Taylor and D.Tay**

The lead lecture by **Cary Fowler** of the Global Crop Diversity Trust on: Securing the genetic base of root and tuber crops, set the stage by pointing to the need for a global system for conservation; one that is effective, efficient and sustainable. What is needed is a systems approach, rather than what has been practiced in the past where conservation is somewhat haphazard and an attempt to conserve everything. In discussions the challenge of conserving material before climate change threatens its existence was highlighted.

The presentations by **David Tay, Reinhard Simon, Ana Panta, Alfonso del Rio and Genoveva Rossel** focused on the model genebank concept and gave details of how to achieve this through best practices, the elimination of duplicates etc. all working to achieve better management and utilization of collections, important when considering a rational, efficient global system. This model genebank concept also highlights a systems approach at the genebank level.

Two papers, by **Hana Chair** and **Nora Scarcelli**, discussed *in situ* conservation of yam, recognizing the importance of this approach in complementary conservation. The paper addressing wild yam highlighted both the importance of wild species and also the need again to look at systems – in this case wild yam within a forest management system.

**Gregory Scott's** paper on potato, and the papers on Andean root and tuber crops by **Julian Soto** and **Carlos Arbizu** highlighted the diversity that exists and the potential benefits of these species – for food security, nutrition, market development and possibly climate readiness.