An excursion and symposium was arranged in Finland during 14—20.8.78 for forest geneticists and forest breeding experts as part of the scientific-technical cooperation programme between Finland and the Soviet Union. The main topics of the symposium, held at the tree breeding station at Punkaharju, were provenance research and seed orchards. 12 lectures were presented. Prof. Max. Hagman acted as chairman of the symposium as well as the excursion leader. A five-member delegation was sent by the Soviet Union under the leadership of Department Head A. I. Novoselceva.

We were very sad to hear that one of the most active participants in the symposium, the well-known and respected forest geneticist Prof. E. P. Prokazin, died after a sudden illness on 25.11.1978 soon after the symposium.

The meeting of the experts in Finland was arranged by the Finnish Forest Research Institute. The National Board of Forestry, the Forest Breeding Foundation, the Central Forestry Board Tapio, Itä-Savo District Forestry Board, Enso-Gutzeit Oy and Kemi Oy also participated in the symposium. There were altogether 17 Finnish participants. Since very many interesting subjects and unpublished results were covered in the symposium, it was considered to be important that they should be made available to a larger audience. We are extremely grateful to the Society of Forestry in Finland for including the lectures given at the symposium in its publication series, SILVA FENNICA. The lectures are listed in the same order as they were presented at Punkaharju. The lectures given in Russian were translated by Lauri Koivunen, FM, and the English language was checked by Ashley Selby B. Sc. and John Derome M. Sc.


Syytä surren on todettava, että eräs symposiumin aktiivisimmista osanottajista, tunnettu ja tunnustettu metsägenetiikan tutkija, professori E. P. Prokazin kuoli 25.11.1978, eli pian symposiumin jälkeen vaikkein sairauden murtamana.