

U.S.-China Citrus Symposium

C. JACK HEARN

A United States-People's Republic of China Citrus Symposium was held in Orlando, Florida, November 14-17, 1983. It was jointly sponsored by the United States Department of Agriculture, Office of International Cooperation and Development and the Agricultural Research Service and the Chinese Ministry of Agriculture, Animal Husbandry and Fishery.

The original purpose of the meeting was to report on collection, preserva-

tion and utilization of citrus germplasm. Later, the program was expanded to include production and post harvest research topics. A discussion session on germplasm availability, preservation and exchange was held and germplasm has been exchanged since the symposium.

The papers presented at the symposium were edited by C. Jack Hearn, of the Agricultural Research Service, Orlando, Florida.

Citrus Production and Research in China

HU ZHAOLING¹

China is one of the most important native lands of citrus. Several citrus species are found in the wild state at present. Commercial cultivation of citrus has been recorded in China for more than 2,500 years. Citrus plantings are distributed in 18 of the 30 provinces and metropolitan areas in the country. The important production areas are located in the provinces of Sichuan, Guangdong, Zhejiang, Guangxi, Hunan, Fujian, Hubei, Jiangxi and Taiwan. Excluding Taiwan, the total area of citrus was 260,000 hectares producing 710,000 tons in 1980. The citrus production of 1981 and 1982 was 798,000 tons and 939,000 tons, respectively. Most citrus fruits are consumed fresh in the domestic market, and a small portion is for the processing of canned segments and orange juice, for export.

Since about one-half of the citrus orchards are nonbearing at present, the relatively rapid development of the production of citrus in the near future is predicted.

Producing regions. Citrus-producing regions are located from 18° to 37° north latitude. The annual mean air temperatures are 14.5° to 27°C, the extreme minimum air temperatures are -9° to 0°C, and the annual precipitation is generally about 1,000 mm, with the most rainfall in spring and summer. The important citrus-producing region has been subdivided to three districts based on the climatic adaptability.

Northern subtropical producing districts. The annual mean air temperature is 15° to 17°C, with rainfall of 750 to 1,000 mm, the extreme minimum air temperature is commonly

¹Department of Science and Technology, Ministry of Agriculture, Animal Husbandry and Fishery, People's Republic of China.