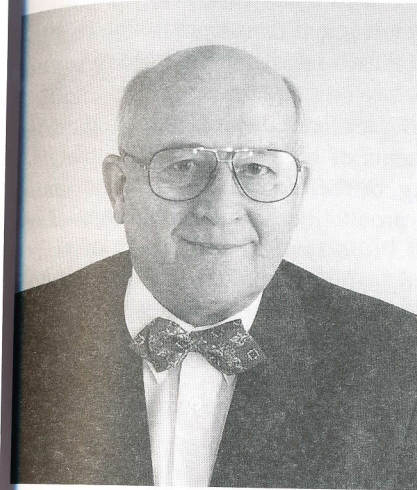


Anniversary of Prof. Ing. Jiří Petr, DrSc., Dr.h.c.



Prof. Ing. Jiří Petr, DrSc., Dr.h.c., one of the recognised Czech specialists for plant production, celebrated his 70th birthday this year. Rich and active work of celebrator leads to thinking over the fact in how broad sense a teacher and scientist contribute to the development of special education and specialisation.

He started the route to university teacher at the Department of Plant Production of the University of Agriculture in Prague immediately after its graduation in 1953. He became a university associate professor in 1966 and in 1989 he was conferred a title of doctor of sciences and then

he was appointed a professor. Thanks to his scientific, pedagogical and organisational qualities, he was in the function of chancellor of the Czech University of Agriculture in the years 1990 to 1994. The University underwent transformation with success and expanded considerably the co-operation with many universities and scientific institutions in Europe and elsewhere else in the world.

Where does consist high successfulness of pedagogical and scientific work of Prof. Petr? It is based on natural talent for these activities, multiplied by his active efforts. Professor Petr can serve as an example for connection of theory and practice. He informed on new knowledge not only students, but was always specialist very much in demand for the special public. On the contrary, he draws inspiration in practice for his efficient research.

All scientific and special lectures of Professor Petr are well-founded, rich in theoretical and practical knowledge and show the trend of development into the future. He can attract his audience and explain the problems by the structure of his lecture the best as possible. His high invention is manifested in well-proposed themes of diploma and dissertation theses, which are highly topical, closely correlated with research targets and help to solve the problems of practice or to verify hypotheses of the basic research. Prof. Petr can transfer his enthusiasm to those around him admirably, therefore there are so many who concern to the co-operation with him. He educated many continuators

and followers to the scientific work, whose potential form more than 100 graduates and over 20 PhD students. His success is not only a matter of him, but he is glad to share the knowledge and experience that are willingly handed down by him, and helps to develop scientific and personal qualities of his colleagues. He is an example of man who dedicated his life to science and education.

It can be said unambiguously that Professor Petr educated and taught many specialists and influenced the developments of some fields of plant production. His scientific erudition is proved e.g. by the fact that he is ranked among most quoted Czech authors from plant production abroad. International appreciation of lifelong scientific work of Professor Petr in biology of plants, theory of yield formation of cereals and legumes, quality of grain and ecological agriculture was a confession of the honourable doctor's degree in agronomy, the degree Dr.h.c. by the Swedish Agricultural University in Uppsala in 1999.

Science and agricultural practice are connected with the name of Prof. Petr particularly in:

- theory of yield formation of cereals and legumes as a scientific basis of plant production
- intensive cereal production and variant cultivation technology
- ecological agriculture
- quality of cereals

Richness of publications, which presents some 75 original scientific works, 210 abstracts on scientific conferences, 260 special papers, 20 methodologies for agricultural practice and 54 monographs serve for students and special public. Prof. Petr participated in solution of many research projects and grants. Nowadays, he is the chairman of the commission of the Grant Agency of the Czech Republic – Plant production, plant breeding and genetics. He is also the chairman of the editorial board of the journal of Czech University of Agriculture *Scientia Agriculturae Bohemica*, in the editorial board of the journal *Úroda*. He was the member of many scientific societies, commissions and scientific councils of domestic and foreign institutions. Work in scientific and technical society meant for him an efficient transfer of scientific knowledge into practice in the form of seminars and conferences that had very positive response in practice.

Agricultural practice, students and science draw from many books that were written under his leadership or by himself. A lot of them were translated into foreign languages and published abroad.

We can mention some of them:

- New knowledge on development of cultural plants (1964)

- The problem of cereals and its solution in the CSSR (1971)
- Peas and faba bean (1973)
- Yield formation of main field crops (1980) – translated into: English, German, Russian and Hungarian
- Cereal and protein programme (1981)
- Biology of development and yield formation in cereals (1983)
- Intensive cereal management (1983) – Russian translation
- Weather and yield (1987) – English and Russian translations
- Agronomist's handbook (1989)
- Ecological agriculture (1992)
- Bases of rye cultivation (1995)
- Bases of buckwheat and millet (1997)
- Wheat cultivation according to utility trends (2001)

It is logical that enumeration of all spheres of activities of Prof. Petr is much more extensive. It can be said that Prof. Petr is a personality of the Czech University of Agriculture, the personality respected by teachers, researchers and institutions, students, organisational and management spheres and agricultural practice. He won high appreciation of pedagogical and research recognition even at foreign university. Attaining of such high pedagogical and scientific credit is a result of valuable and never-ending work of the celebrator.

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