

## OBITUARY NOTICE

### Ing. JAN SMRŽ, CSc. (6.2.1921–28.1.2011)



Ing. JAN SMRŽ, CSc., belongs to the generation of phytopathologists who substantially contributed to the development of applied plant protection, as well as to phytopathological research in the first decades after the war.

In 1958 he finished his studies at the Agricultural University in Brno, with specialisation in plant protection. During the last years of his studies he was working at the laboratory of prognoses and signalisation of the Central Institute for Supervision and Testing in Agriculture. Later he was appointed as head of the laboratory. In that position he encouraged and challenged colleagues to critically think and evaluate established and new concepts.

In the years 1960–1972 Ing. JAN SMRŽ worked at the Research Institute for Sugar Beets at Semčice. His main interests were diagnostic methods for sugar beet viruses and the role of their vectors. In those years he collaborated with the Department of Virology of the Research Institute of Plant Production in Prague-Ruzyně and with the Department of Phytopathology of the Institute of Experimental Botany, Czechoslovak Academy of Sciences.

In 1969 he defended his CSc. thesis and was awarded Candidate of Sciences degree.

During 1972–1985 Ing. JAN SMRŽ, CSc., studied viral diseases of red clover and lucerne at the Research Institute for Fodder Crops at Troubsko. There he became the head of the Department of Plant Protection. He is author of many scientific and popular articles and book chapters. Ing. JAN SMRŽ, CSc., was active member of Plant protection chamber in Czechoslovak Academy of Agricultural Sciences. He was also active as an external teacher of the Mendel University of Agriculture and Forestry in Brno. After his retirement he worked part-time in the Plant Protection Service in Brno, and used this good opportunity to pass his very broad knowledge of plant pathology and experience in plant protection on to a young generation of phytopathologists.

Ing. JAN SMRŽ, CSc., died 28. January 2011 some days before 90<sup>th</sup> birthday.

Honour of his memory.

*Jan Nedělník*

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