

BIOGRAPHICAL NOTICE

Ing. IVO BAREŠ, DrSc., Is Eighty



On March 2, 2005 Ing. IVO BAREŠ, DrSc., celebrated his eightieth birthday, full of energy and working activity. He is known as an initiator and founder of the systematic study and conservation of plant genetic resources (PGR) in Czechoslovakia and later in the Czech Republic. During more than sixty years of his work in this field he concentrated on collecting, classification, documentation, conservation and use of domestic and introduced genetic resources of crops in the plant breeding.

At the end of the forties and at the beginning of the fifties of the last century he developed and coordinated a network of workplaces engaged in plant genetic resources in the whole territory of former Czechoslovakia. Besides his smart evaluation of the importance of genetic resources for the present and future generations his activities were also based on international cooperation with important centres of genetic resources in the world. His tireless organizational efforts resulted in well functioning cooperation on national and international levels. To ensure the coordination of research in this field he initiated the foundation of the Council of Genetic Resources.

After the period when he studied various crops he specialized mainly in cereals, later particularly in wheat. Genetic resources of this crop were the subject of his CSc. (PhD) dissertation defended in 1963. His knowledge of many years' work was summarized in his DrSc. dissertation successfully defended in 1985. Ing. IVO BAREŠ, DrSc., applies his experience also at present, e.g. to rationalize the work with large PGR collections and to develop core collections that represent the substantial part of variability of the original collection by a minimum number of samples.

Ing. IVO BAREŠ, DrSc., has always been aware of the importance of information on collections of plant genetic resources for their utilization. Since the mid-sixties he has organized the editing of Index Seminum, a survey of genetic resources. A very important period of his organizational activities was the preparation and initiation of the PGR information system. It is used in a modified version under the name EVIGEZ also at the present time. Very significant was also his contribution to the preparation and editing of a complete set of descriptor lists of important crops used until now for the unified PGR evaluation of the relevant genus or species.

Ing. IVO BAREŠ, DrSc., considered international contacts, exchange of information and PGR samples as priorities. When he was head of the Department of Genetic Resources, former Czechoslovakia joined international cooperation in the framework of the International Board of Plant Genetic Resources (IBPGR) that separated from FAO Rome. For many years he cooperated with the important centre of genetic resources in VIR St. Petersburg (former VIR Leningrad) and achieved international recognition by his work.

The activities of Ing. IVO BAREŠ, DrSc., culminated in the construction of facilities for long-term storage of seed samples, the Gene Bank in the Research Institute of Crop Production, Prague-Ruzyně, which started to work in 1988.

Close cooperation with cereal breeders, provision of information and PGR samples led Mr. BAREŠ to the co-authorship of winter wheat cultivars Lena, Juna, Zdar, Mara and spring wheat Jara. In former Czechoslovakia he also participated in the introduction and registration of important foreign cultivars.

In the applied genetic research he initiated the research on wheat aneuploids that resulted in valuable information on the genetic base of vernalization requirements of winter forms of this crop.

Besides his activities in the field of plant genetic resources, for many years he was head of the Commission of Genetics, Plant Breeding and Seed Production in the framework of the Section of Crop Production of the former Czechoslovak Academy of Agriculture. He was also a member of the Editorial Board of the journal *Rostlinná výroba* (Crop Production) and participated in the activities of the State Variety Commission, scientific councils of several research institutes and other institutions with statewide activities.

He published results of his research in more than 120 scientific contributions, issued more than 220 technical papers and was author or co-author of 50 books.

Ing. IVO BAREŠ, DrSc., is a highly regarded and internationally respected personality in the field of genetic resources in general and genetic resources of cereals in particular. He continues to apply his knowledge and experience in his work in the Department of Gene Bank of the Research Institute of Crop Production, Prague-Ruzyně, where he substantially contributes to further development of this area and passes his experience to younger specialists. He educated many research workers, his successors and followers, and has helped many of his colleagues to solve professional as well as personal problems. Also for this reason Ing. IVO BAREŠ, DrSc., is a reputable personality for his successors and colleagues. He is an example of a scientific worker who has deserved well not only of the development of an important branch of biological research but also who continues to care for its further development.

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