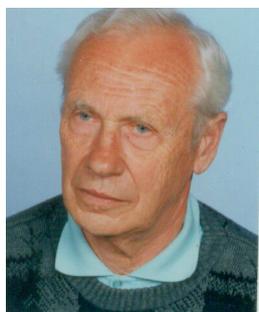


AN OBITUARY NOTICE

Prof. RTDr. Ing. Jan Rod, DrSc.



Prof. RTDr. Ing. JAN ROD, DrSc., deceased on the 9th January 2004 at the age of unaccomplished 84 years. He was born on the 28th October 1920 in the town of Telč in Českomoravská vysočina; he studied at a grammar school in Užhorod and at the University of Agriculture in Brno, from where he graduated in 1947 after the end of Second World War.

He was a researcher engaged in agricultural research and at universities. His career started in the Department of Genetics and Plant Breeding at Regional Research Institutes in Brno, later he founded a division of genetics and plant breeding at a research laboratory at Pohořelice near Brno. He lectured statistics, designing of field experiments, plant breeding and seed production at the University of Agriculture in Brno, where he was appointed an associate professor in 1965. In 1969 he had to leave the University for political reasons, and he started to work in the newly founded Agricultural Research Institute in Hrušovany near Brno, where he established the Division of Biometrics and Experimental Technique. He continued his scientific activities at Fodder Crop Research Station in Troubsko near Brno, where he headed the Division of Genetics; after Research and Breeding Institute of Fodder Crops was established, he was appointed the head of the genetics and breeding sector.

In the course of his more than forty-years scientific and pedagogic career he published more than 120 scientific papers, he wrote nine university textbooks and was a co-author of many specialised encyclopaedias. He was a member of the board of editors of the journal *Genetika a Šlechtění* for many years. His activities were focused on development of science in the area of field experiment designs and evaluation, methods of biometric and genetic analyses of plant populations and methodical techniques of fodder crop breeding. Results of his activities were highly appreciated not only in this country but also abroad. An evidence of his high international professional prestige was that he was elected a board member of many important European professional associations such as EUCARPIA (plant breeding), IAMFE (mechanisation of field experiments) and International Biometric Association; he was also a visiting lecturer and researcher at the University of Bonn. He was awarded the prize of Czechoslovak Academy of Agricultural Sciences several times for his scientific contribution.

His always pushed the application of research results in practical farming conditions. Thanks mainly to his efforts, in 1972 a world exhibition of mechanisation for field experimentation was held in Hrušovany and in Brno where researchers and specialists from research, breeding and testing institutions could familiarise themselves with the latest machinery of that time and that was a source of inspiration for development of new cultivation technologies. He promoted the use of computers in agricultural research and he substantially contributed to the establishment of a computing centre in Research Institute of Agricultural Economics in Prague and joint Centre of biometrics and computing in Brno.

The education of young scientists was Prof. Rod's very important activity. Disfavoured by fortune he could carry out this activity as an external pedagogue only: at University of Agriculture in Brno and Masaryk University in Brno, where he organised postgraduate courses of biometrics. He educated many scientists who currently work at universities, in research, breeding and testing institutions in the Czech and Slovak Republics. He deserved well to be appointed a university professor in 1990.

Prof. JAN ROD inspired many of us to the more profound study and use of biometrics in plant genetics, breeding and testing, in field experimentation and agricultural research in general. Many of us will not forget his help in crucial stages of professional growth.

Long live his memory.

Ing. Jiří Hartmann, CSc.