

AN OBITUARY NOTICE

Ing. Ivo Bareš, DrSc.



Ing. IVO BAREŠ, DrSc. was a leading and respected scientist of the Crop Research Institute in Prague-Ruzyně, where he had continuously worked since 1951. He was an initiator and founder of research on plant genetic resources (PGR) and he substantially contributed to the activities of the Gene Bank by his knowledge and experience.

Prior to his work in the Research Institute of Crop Production (RICP) he was employed at the station Experimental Fields of the State Research Institutes of Agriculture in Doksany upon Ohře. In the RICP he was initially engaged in genetic resources of cereals and legumes, and after 1961 he focused mainly on the wheat collection. Since 1954 as Head of the National Council of World Collections of Cultivated Plants at RICP he coordinated research in this field at all specialized institutes in Czechoslovakia. Under his coordination this collection reached 55 000 accessions

of PGR in 1986. In 1964–1996 he was Head of the Department of Genetic Resources and Taxonomy of the Section of Genetics and Plant Breeding. Evaluation of wheat genetic resources from the aspect of genealogy, biologic traits and utilization of wheat collection in this country was, among others, the topic of his Candidate of Science (Ph.D.) thesis in 1963 and Doctor of Science (DrSc.) thesis in 1985.

His close cooperation with plant breeders and agricultural practice was highly appreciated. He affected the application of selected resources in plant breeding and their direct use in the crop growing in a crucial way. He participated in the introduction of foreign cultivars into agricultural practice, and he also became the co-author of many domestic cultivars of wheat and legumes.

It was a great merit of Ing. IVO BAREŠ, DrSc. that the National Gene Bank was founded at the RICP in Prague-Ruzyně in 1988. In connection with this event he was an author of the concept of long-term storage of genetic resources and developed a database for the PGR information system EVIGEZ. He published the comprehensive Index Seminum and participated in the edition of 23 crop descriptor lists. They have been used for the classification of PGR collections until now. He published almost 200 scientific and professional papers and several books. He also substantially contributed to the development of international cooperation in the study and utilization of PGR. He worked in the Section of Crop Production of the former Czechoslovak Academy of Agriculture (ČSAZ) for many years, he was Head of the Commission of Genetics and Plant Breeding, member of several scientific councils, plant breeding councils and editorial boards, State Variety Commission and a member of scientific councils of several research institutes. He was awarded several plaques and he received awards of honour for his work in the ČSAZ. Extensive were his pedagogic activities at the Institute of Tropical and Subtropical Agriculture of the Czech University of Agriculture in Prague and tutoring of university students and young scientists.

Successful activities of Ing. IVO BAREŠ, DrSc. covered also other areas of plant production and results of this work have been appreciated at home as well as abroad. He became a respectable scientific authority. His research work significantly developed the study of genetic resources of cultivated plants. He rightly belonged to the leading scientists of Czech agricultural research.

By his death on July 11, 2011, the community of scientists and researchers lost the top specialist in the field of plant genetic resources. We appreciate very much IVO BAREŠ's pilot activities in the field of PGR in the former Czechoslovakia and in the Czech Republic, his inventive ideas and deeds and his friendly relations.

*Ing. Zdeněk Stehno, CSc., Ing. Ladislav Dotlačil, CSc., Mgr. Iva Faberová
Department of Gene Bank, Crop Research Institute, Prague-Ruzyně, Czech Republic*