

PROFESSOR DR. FERENC ZSOLDOS IS 60 YEARS OLD



FERENC ZSOLDOS was born in Sarkad, Hungary, on 24th March, 1927. After secondary school studies in Sarkad and then Békéscsaba, he matriculated in 1947. He next enrolled as a student of biology at the Faculty of Natural Sciences of Eötvös Loránd University, in Budapest, from which he received his diploma in 1952. Following this, he took part in postgraduate training for three years, and then from 1955 worked as an assistant lecturer at the Department of Applied Botany of the University. He moved to the Department of Plant Physiology of the University in Szeged in 1957. He held the position of research worker until 1974, in which year he was appointed Reader, followed in 1984 by his appointment as Professor. He became Chairman of the Department of Plant Physiology in 1985, and continues to hold this position.

FERENC ZSOLDOS started his educational and teaching activities at Eötvös Loránd University where, while still a university student, he regularly took part as a demonstrator in the botany practicals. Later, following his move to Szeged, he led plant physiology practicals, held courses of special lectures, and delivered lectures in the main courses on plant physiology. Under his guidance, an appreciable number of university students have prepared their diploma work and theses for their

degrees, or have obtained their university doctoral degrees. He delivers regular lectures and courses of special lectures on the topics of mineral nutrition, deficiency diseases of plants, and the practical use of hydroponic cultures, within the framework of national (agricultural engineer, teacher, etc.) training courses and post-graduate training courses.

FERENC ZSOLDOS started his research work in 1952 at the Department of Plant Physiology of Eötvös Loránd University, where in 1957 he prepared and successfully defended his university doctoral dissertation, and later his dissertation for the degree of Candidate and Doctor of Science of the Hungarian Academy of Sciences. His scientific activities were greatly influenced by the circumstance that, first as a scholar, and then as a visiting scientist, he was able to spend a long period in 1962 at the Laboratory of the International Atomic Energy Agency near Vienna (Seibersdorf). Here he learned the modern isotope techniques relating to ion-transport research. Later he started dealing with the effects of environmental stress factors (low temperature, pH, etc.) and various, biologically active compounds (e.g. herbicides) on the mineral uptakes of grain crops. In connection with these topics, he has published 122 papers in national and international scientific periodicals (*Physiologia Plantarum*, *Plant and Soil*, *Z. Pflanzenphysiologie*, etc.) as well as in the publications of international congresses.

FERENC ZSOLDOS is a member of several Hungarian (Szeged Subcommittee of the Hungarian Society of Biologists, Botanical Committee of the Hungarian Academy of Sciences) and foreign (European Society of Nuclear Methods in Agriculture, Scandinavian Society for Plant Physiology, Federation of European Societies of Plant Physiology) scientific societies. He is editor of the journal *Botanikai Közlemények* (Botanical Communications), and is an editorial board member of *Acta Biologica Szegediensis*, *Physiologia Plantarum* and *Oryza*. He is a member of the advisory board of the "Japan Prize" Selection Committee. The Department of Biological Sciences of the Hungarian Academy of Sciences has commissioned Ferenc Zsoldos to chair the Hungarian National Committee of the Federation of European Societies of Plant Physiology.

Besides his university educational and research activity, FERENC ZSOLDOS takes an active part as project leader in the direction and elaboration of objectives connected with plant mineral nutrition, within the main directives of Hungarian agricultural and biological research, in collaboration with Hungarian (Institute of Biophysics, Biological Research Center of the Hungarian Academy of Sciences, Szeged; Cereal Research Institute, Szeged; Research Institute for Irrigation; Rice Laboratory, Szarvas) and foreign (Institute of Agriculture, Austrian Research Center, Seibersdorf, Austria) institutions.

As an acknowledgement of his successful activities in university education, research and scientific life, in 1987 he was awarded the honour „For Outstanding Work” by the Hungarian Cultural Minister.

We wish professor FERENC ZSOLDOS good health and successful activities

the Editorial Board.