

## PROFESSOR ISTVÁN SZALAI IS 75 YEARS OLD



Emeritus Professor ISTVÁN SZALAI, one of the pioneers of plant physiological research, the founder and first head of the Department of Plant Physiology of Szeged University was born in 1913. In 1939, after finishing his studies at the university he became the colleague of Professor PÁL GREGUSS at the Department of Botany. He worked in several fields of the botanical sciences, his interest however soon turned towards plant physiology, because he recognized the promising tendencies of the development of this branch of science.

Following the organization of the Department of Plant Physiology he worked on the establishment of teaching plant physiology, and scientific research. The sign of his substantial work in the field of education is the fact, that he is the author resp. co-author of six textbooks. A modern research field: the regulation of plant growth and development, is one of the main research topic of the department even now. He published his results in several Hungarian and international journals.

ISTVÁN SZALAI was a man of scientific public life, partly at the university, partly at the Hungarian Academy of Sciences. He was also active as technical editor between 1957—64, then editor in chief between 1967—1974 in the Editorial Board of *Acta Biologica*, and also as the member of Botanical Committee of Hungarian Academy of Sciences as well as member of the National Postgraduate Degree Granting Board. Professor SZALAI was invited to the Budapest University of Horticulture in the 70-es, to give lectures on plant physiology, and he has been a professor there continuously after his retirement too.

We wish successful work and good health to Professor SZALAI.

*the Editorial Board*