

The Teacher of Lithuanian Horticulturists Professor Zdzisław Kawecki



Foreign Member of the Lithuanian Academy of Sciences Professor Zdzisław KAWECKI celebrated his 75th jubilee on 7th of February. Professor lived and worked in different geographical places and various political environments. He was born in a family of teachers just before the Second World War, in 1938, in West Belarus, a native land of the famous poets Adomas Mickevičius, Vladislavas Siromklė and the pilot Pranciškus Žvirka. His family retreated to Eastern Poland in 1945. He was influenced by Belarusian, Masurian, Kashubian and German culture, this cultural diversity stimulated formation of an open-minded and communicative personality. Future professor graduated a primary school in Wiszniewo where his parents worked

and later studied in a lyceum in Mława. He was involved in vegetable growing there and studied biological diversity of radish and lettuce, and that encouraged him to choose agricultural studies. He studied at the Agricultural and Technical Academy in Olstyn in 1955–1961, and he investigated humic acids in soil in his Master's Thesis. All life of Professor was related to this academy, there he defended his PhD Thesis dedicated to study of physiological properties of apple seeds during dormancy in 1967. Later, in 1974 he defended his Habilitative Doctoral Thesis, where physiological and biochemical processes of walnut seeds during stratification were studied. He worked as Vice Dean in the Faculty of Agronomy of the University of Warmia and Mazury in Olstyn and was Head of the Department of Horticulture in 1975–2007. He achieved a Docent Pedagogical Title in 1975, a Title of Extraordinary Professor in 1985, and a Professor Title in 1991. Professor made contacts and close cooperation with scientists from the Institute of Horticulture of LRCAF, the Institute of Vegetable Growing of the Belarus Academy of Sciences, the Samokhvalovich Institute of Horticulture, and the Department of Vegetable Growing of the Academy of Agriculture in Ukraine.

Zdzisław KAWECKI has published 275 scientific publications and 23 textbooks. Currently, Professor is a member of the editorial boards of the journals "Sodininkystė ir daržininkystė" (Horticulture and Vegetable Growing) and "Žemės ūkio mokslai" (Agricultural Sciences). Professor is closely related to the origin and development of modern intense orchards in Lithuania, he participated in committees of doctoral and habilitated doctoral thesis defence in the Institute of Horticulture of LRCAF, chaired scientific conferences, cared about Lithuanian students studying horticulture

and landscape management in the University of Varmia and Mazury, trained masters of horticulture for Lithuania, organized internship courses for Lithuanian scientists inviting them to the Polish research centres. Professor studied Lithuanian orchard plant cultivars and propagated them in Poland. Also, Z. Kawecki organized Lithuanian scientist lectures in plant breeding, biotechnology and physiology in Poland.

Professor mentored 12 PhD students; he was interested in physiological and biochemical processes of seeds during stratification and dormancy, biochemical, technological and ecological studies of non-traditional horticultural plants, herbological studies.

Professor was active in social life. He is a member of the International Society for Horticultural Science (ISHS), and was a Chair of the Division of Herbology of the Polish Academy of Sciences. He was an expert of horticulture for the Minister

of Education, a member of the Scientific Board of the Polish Institute of Horticulture and Floriculture, Chairman of the Scientific Commission of the Senate of the University of Varmia and Mazury. Professor was granted a Title of Honoured Agricultural Worker in 1980, and he was listed in the Book of Emeritus Honorable Citizens of Varmia and Mazury in 1982. Many medals were awarded to him for his scientific, educational and social activity, and in 2001 he got one of the most honourable state awards of Poland – Officer's Cross of the Resurrection Order of Poland. Professor was granted a Title of Honourable Doctor of the Belarusian Academy of Sciences in 1995, he was elected as a True Member of the Academy of Agrarian Education in Moscow in 1997, and a Foreign Member of the Lithuanian Academy of Sciences in 2002.

We wish Professor Zdzisław Kawecki best luck, health and unfading energy.

Prof. Habil. Dr. Vidmantas Stanys