ANNIVERSARY

Professor-Doctor of Sciences-Engineer Nikola Vichev Kolev, at 80 Years Old



Prof. DSi. Nikola Kolev was born on 01 January 1945 in the town of Chirpan. He graduated from secondary school in 1963 and from Technical University – Sofia in 1968 in Electronics.

From 1969 up to 2011 he worked in the Nikola Poushkarov Institute of Soil Science, Agrothecnology and Plant Protection. He has spent his career at the department Agrophysics. His Habilitations were in 1982 (Assoc. Prof.) and Professor – in 1998.

He finished his PhD thesis in 1978 in the Technical University – Sofia and he was conferred a degree of Candidate of Technical sciences, titled "Electronic means for irrigation control of agricultural fields". Prof. Kolev was conferred a degree „Doctor of Agricultural sciences" in 1996 with the title „Evaluation of main energy budget elements of the soil based on electronic devices" in Nikola Poushkarov Institute. The author of the thesis considered his main task to be the proposing of methods of approach to optimum organization and control of the field electronic measurements, both express and continuous, by designing new special purpose sensors, algorithms and structures of measuring devices and systems. The thesis was based on 4 patents and 21 scientific papers, published in International Agrophysics, in the Proceedings of the XI IMECO World Congress, in the 38 International Symposium of USA, in the Bulgarian scientific Journal Agricultural Technics and in the proceedings of national and international scientific conferences and symposia.

He was director of the Nikola Poushkarov Institute of Soil Science between 2003 and 2008 and General Secretary of the Agricultural academy of Bulgaria between 2008 and 2011. Prof. Kolev had 7 post graduate students and he had more than 250 scientific papers, monographs and books, 18 technical reports of national and international projects (including MARS-MERA, ENVASSO, PRIRODA, GEOLAND, and others), 5 patents of electronic measurement devices.

During his career Prof. Kolev performed some short fellowships: Agricultural Faculty of the University of Georgia, USA, Agricultural University of Athens, Greece; Agrophysic Institute of Sanct Peterburg, Agoscientific Center of Moscow, Siberian Branch of Russian academy and others.

As membership of Committees he participated at the Steering Committee of Bulgarian Information Office of GMES – Head- since 2010; International Measurement Confederation - since 1987; Senate of the Agricultural academy - Vice President – (1996 -1999); European

Soil Bureau Network – 2001- 2012; National Advisory Council of Global Environmental Fund of UN – 2005 -2010; National Advisory Council for Food Safety (2007-2009); Standing Committee of Agricultural Researches of EC (2008-2012); National Scientific Council of Soil Science, Agrochemistry and Common Agriculture (2007 -2010); National Scientific Council of Electronics and Computer Techniques (2001-2010).

As Membership of Editorial Boards of Scientific Journals he was Member of the Editorial Board of the scientific journal ”Ecology and Future” (in Bulgarian); Member of the Editorial Board of the scientific journal “Soil Science, Agrochemistry and Agroecology”(in Bulgarian);Member of the Editorial Board of the scientific journal “Bulgarian Journal of Agricultural Sciences” – Deputy Chief of Editorial Board; Member of the Editorial Board of the scientific journal of the Siberian Agricultural Branch of Russian Academy, Russia (in Russian) (2009 - 2015).

Prof. Kolev graduated as: “Honorary Professor“ of the Nikola Poushkarov Institute; “Correspondent Member” of the Romanian Agricultural Academy; “Doctor Honoris Causa” of the Russian academy of Sciences – Siberian Agricultural Branch.

The main topics of his work were in the soil science and environmental practice, application and development of electronic devices and systems in environment, as well as experience in the field of soil monitoring.

Research activities of Prof. Kolev included broad professional experience in the soil science and environmental practice, application and development of electronic devices and systems in environment, as well as experience in the field of soil monitoring:

- Research experience in the field of remote sensing of the soil and plant resources; soil physics and applied electronics; Participation and head positions in the PRIRODA Remote Sensing Project (1986-1992) and MARS Remote Sensing Project (1994-1998);
- Knowledge of strategies of European Countries Agriculture and Environmental Development;
- Knowledge of European Commission documents related to Soil Strategy and Rural Development, Community Strategic Guidelines for Rural Development Policy, etc.;
- Experience and knowledge regarding challenges to soil resources management and research policy in Bulgarian agriculture;
- Research work for land deterioration and desertification; Introducing of advanced technologies for estimation of soil and plant resources and plant cultivation using remote sensing and math modeling;
- Professional Experience in Project identification and implementation on the basis of bottom-up local development initiatives; consulting of municipalities, projects development and assessment in soil protection and land management;
- Professional experience in the management, preparation, implementation and evaluation of regional development programs and projects related to local development, funded by the European funds, including SWOT analysis; Experience in collaboration with partners in agriculture and rural development as local NGO involved in local development projects;
- Studies of Bulgarian agricultural policy in the Institute of Soil Science mainly in the field of Land Protection, Agricultural Technologies and European Integration; Knowledge of National Strategic Plan for Rural Development of Bulgaria;

- Preparation of reviews for: international and national projects, PhD, Dr. Sci., articles, usability of electronic devices;
- Preparation of drafts for laws: Law for prevention and sustainable use of soils – 2004-2005;
- Experience as expert and consultant in international teams and projects: PRIRODA Project (1986-1992), MARS-Project (1994-1998), Self-Assessment of UN Conventions for Desertification, Biodiversity and Climate Changes (2004 – 2005), Sustainable land Management (2006-2007);
- Experience as member of the European Soil Bureau Network together with well-known soil scientists: Prof. Mark Kiblewhite from Cramfield University of UK, Prof. Eric Van Ranst from University of Gent, Belgium, Prof. Dudal from University of Leuven, Belgium, Dr. Luca Montanarella and Dr. Geovani Bidoglio from the IES of JRC, Italy and others. Experience as member of the Standing Committee for Agricultural Research of EC (2003-2012);
- Measurement experience with: soil moisture and electro conductivity meters and devices, TDR-meters, tensiometers, soil salinity meters, thermometers and IR thermometers, solarimeters and pyranometers, bolometers, pH-meters, anemometers, rain gauges, humidity and electropsyhro meters, penetrometers, soil compaction complexes, leaf area meters, agro meteorology stations and other lab and field equipment;
- Knowledge in the security of foods, based on the long term training of the members of the National Council for Security of Foods (new foods and GMOs foods) to the Ministry of Human Healthy, provided by Austrian Federal Environmental Agency in Sofia (2007);
- Experience and knowledge regarding challenges to soil resources management and research policy in Bulgarian agriculture;
- Research work for land deterioration and desertification; Introducing of advanced technologies for estimation of soil and plant resources and plant cultivation using remote sensing and math modeling;
- Professional Experience in Project identification and implementation on the basis of bottom-up local development initiatives; consulting of municipalities, projects development and assessment in soil protection and land management;
- Communications and networking skills, experience in collaboration with the organizations on governmental and local levels;
- Preparation of reviews for: international and national projects, PhD, Dr. Sci., articles, usability of electronic devices;
- Experience with organization of activities of the soil science specialists in the period of current events in the territory of Bulgaria (unexpected oil, heavy metal, military based and other contaminations of lands) as director of the Institute of Soil Science.
- Experience with reviews of scientific articles, PhD thesises and Professors thesises.
- Experience with expert collaboration with the Agency for Sustainable Development and Euro-integration – ECOREGIONS(ASDE) and the Remote Sensing Applications Center (RESAC) in program of sustainable development, reference data bases in land cover/land use, risk and security management, spatial data infrastructure.

Happy Anniversary, Professor Nikola Vichev Kolev!