

In Memoriam of Professor Dragan Škorić

The outstanding sunflower geneticist and breeder, Dragan Škorić, has passed away. Academician, Chairman of the Academic Committee for Village Affairs of the Serbian Academy of Sciences and Arts, Professor Dragan Škorić, left this world at the age of 88—he was born in 1937 in Korenica, Croatia.

He led the educational course at the University of Novi Sad for a long time and was involved in the training of many generations of agronomists. Together with his students and colleagues from the Institute of Field and Vegetable Crops (Novi Sad, Serbia), he published more than 400 scientific papers, including 5 monographs, in which he revealed the importance of sunflower initial breeding materials, the methodology of breeding this crop, the impact of interactions of individual genetic systems on the development of quantitative traits, and the genetics of specific determinants of the crop's resistance to biotic factors.

Academician D. Škorić successfully implemented the idea of utilizing the heterosis effect in sunflower. By creating over 150 different hybrids varying in vegetation period, he achieved a

genetic potential yield of six tons per hectare in the subtropical climate. D. Škorić's original research and his active informational work in many countries worldwide contributed to revealing the potential of the major oilseed crop, which is capable of delivering significant economic results.

Dragan Škorić succeeded in gathering a circle of like-minded breeders, phytopathologists, geneticists, biochemists, and plant scientists for in-depth research into the genetic foundations of sunflower breeding. This resulted in significant practical outcomes, including the expansion of this crop into areas where sunflower had not been grown previously.

The National Academy of Agrarian Sciences of Ukraine accepted Dragan Škorić into its ranks, electing him as a Foreign Full Member. His scientific achievements in sunflower genetics and breeding are of great importance for the development of Ukrainian breeding science, with the representatives of which he maintained long-standing, close creative ties.

Eternal memory to the great scientist!

V. V. Kyrychenko

Yuriev Plant Production Institute of NAAS, Kharkiv, Ukraine