

BIOGRAPHICAL NOTICE

Seventieth Birthday of Ing. Vladimír Řehák, CSc.



Vladimír Řehák was born in Prague on May 23rd, 1932. After the primary school years he worked as trainee with the State Forests Enterprise. In 1954 he finished the School of Agriculture at Roudnice nad Labem with A-levels. Following the time at secondary school he was employed by the Department of Quarantine Laboratory of the Central Supervising and Testing Institute in Agriculture in Prague. In 1961 he finished study at the University of Agriculture in Prague, with specialisation in plant protection, and defended his thesis on the “Problems of Forecasting the Occurrence of Pests, and the Activities of Quarantine Service in the Field of Plant Protection Service in the Czechoslovak Republic”.

His activities in the field of plant protection have been very wide and diverse. Since 1968 he was in charge of problems associated with the functions of internal and external plant quarantine. He first had to deal with ways to prevent the introduction of and protection against potato wart disease, and the golden potato cyst nematode. In these years he worked out or participated in developing guidelines on how to prevent the introduction of new quarantine agents into the Czech Republic. Later he extended his expert activities by efficacy tests of new plant protection agents before their registration. He was also engaged in the development of methods to forecast and warn about the occurrence of pests of agricultural crops.

In 1990–1993 he was director of the State Phytosanitary Administration of the Central Supervising and Testing Institute in Agriculture, and instrumental in the amendment of methods of protection against quarantine diseases and pests of agricultural crops, and the modernization of methods of forecasting and warning of their occurrence. He also participated in the creation of the Phytosanitary Act.

Vladimír Řehák has often co-operated with the Czech Agricultural University in Prague, where he now lectures in continuation courses for staff of the State Phytosanitary Administration. He has also been a frequently selected critic of final reports on research at agricultural research institutes. He was a member of the scientific committee of the Botanical Institute of the Czechoslovak Academy of Sciences in Prague and of the Research Institute of Crop Production in Prague-Ruzyně. For several years he has been a member of the presidium of the Health of Plant Section of the Czech Academy of Agricultural Sciences. For a number of years he has been a member of the Editorial Board of the journal *Ochrana Rostlin*, now *Plant Protection Science*.

V. Řehák is the author or co-author of four scientific papers, 32 special and popularizing papers, six outlines of methods and five books.

Since 2001 he has been president of the Czech Plant Health Society. The activities of this society aim to encourage and facilitate expert discussion on the actual problems of plant protection, and endeavor to improve the effectiveness of measures to control important quarantine plant diseases.

The Editorial Board of the journal *Plant Protection Sciences* wishes that in the years to come Vladimír Řehák may enjoy firm health, personal well-being and strength necessary for his many-sided interests in problems of the health of plants, and in persistent endeavors to improve the ways of plant protection.

JOSEF ŠEDIVÝ (Prague)