

Professor Dr. H.c. Alexandru Pavel MOISUC at 80 years old

*Powerful minds discuss ideas
Mediocre minds discuss events
Poor minds talk about people*
(Socrates 470 - 399 BC)

Prof. Alexandru Moisuc was born in 22th September 1942 in a family with a horticulturist father, thus from early childhood he started to be attracted and involved in the research of plants when he was less than 10 years old at the Station of Young Naturalists from Timișoara since its beginning (1952).

The main author of this evocation met the young high school student Moisuc in the year 1958, when all the high-school graduates of the first generation with 11 high school classes from Timișoara who intended to apply their candidature to faculties with biological, agricultural or forestry profile, took lessons in botany and zoology, basic subjects that didn't were teach in the high school with 10 grades, following the Soviet model from those times.

The admission at the Agronomic Institute from Timișoara has came naturally in the year 1959, at the age of 17 he was the youngest student and then the youngest graduate of the Agriculture Faculty. The curiosity and the researcher spirit found proper conditions to develop during the studentship, as is evidenced by the scientific research activity from that time, the results obtained being presented in two scientific papers in the framework of the national scientific sessions.

After the graduation of the faculty, as valedictorian, Alexandru Moisuc started teaching and research in the field of genetics and plant breeding together with the team coordinated by Professor Drăcea Iulian. From the beginning of his activity, he turned his attention to the problems related to genetics and wheat breeding, starting in 1965 with this research activity, later being co-author of the wheat variety Timișan.

Between 1967 and 1980 he had dealt particularly with the problems referring to the wheat mutations, the topic being the basis for his doctoral thesis which he had defended publicly in 1976.

Even he was invited to a series of scientific events abroad before 1990, he was unable to attend any of them because each time its visa for travelling abroad was denied. Starting with 1983, Professor dr. hc Alexandru Moisuc coordinated the discipline "*Grassland Science and Forage Crops*". From the same year he

started to be interested by the vegetation and the improvement of the Romanian grasslands, and from 1985, following the entering in a contract with ICCPT Fundulea, he had studied various aspects related to the improvement of fodder beet.

Other concerns in the field of grasslands and forage crops were focused on the establishment, evaluation and conservation of germplasm resources in forage plants, analysis of the biodiversity and pastoral value of the grasslands under the influence of fertilization and last but not least the ecological reconstruction of the degraded grasslands.

Another direction approached was the use of perennial grasses for lawns and sport fields, thus in 2001 he had published the pioneering book "*Lawn - science and art*" (ro. *Gazonul - știință și artă*).

He has also carried out extension activities in the field of grasslands through the Foundation Pro Agro, as consultant and founding member. During these activities he also had presented numerous courses for the farmers from Banat area (western Romania).

Along his academic career, being an exceptional manager, Prof. Alexandru Moisuc held a series of management positions, respectively vice dean of the Agriculture Faculty (1992-1996), dean of the Agriculture Faculty (1996-2004) and rector of USAMVB Timișoara (2004-2012) in this last position he had ended his long academic career.

During this period he published a number of 32 books and courses for students on various topics, from genetics and plant breeding to grassland improvement and forage crop cultivation, lawn technology, dictionaries of agricultural terms, etc., Prof. Alexandru Moisuc is the author of over 330 scientific papers with his collaborators and doctoral students, many of them being presented at international congresses and symposia abroad from the field of genetics and cereal breeding, from the field of forager plants, from the vast field of grassland science, from the field of lawn technology, but also papers with interdisciplinary topics.

Regarding the scientific research activity of Prof. Alexandru Moisuc, it has been built by his involvement in 37 projects, from which in 16 was coordinator and in 21 was collaborator. Since 2010 he had coordinated two European-funded doctoral and postdoctoral training programs (POSDRU and POSDOC).

As doctoral supervisor he was a prodigious mentor, coordinating 25 doctoral theses and reviewing many others such works, inclusively abroad (at INRA Toulouse, France).

As a former schoolfellow in the faculty and later as collaborator in specific projects in the field of grassland science (he is co-author of the variety Premier of reed canary grass – *Phalaris arundinacea*), I was honoured to be referent in all 25 doctoral commissions with topics extremely varied and novel referring to the field of grassland science and forage crops, which Prof. Alexandru Moisuc had guided with a lot of dedication and professional competency.

I can say that at USAMVB Timișoara, Prof. Alexandru Moisuc, through his innovative topics approached, with many avant-garde ideas, had created in our country a real doctoral school in the field of Grassland Science and forage Crops.

As a result of these special achievements in 2007 he was awarded with the title Doctor Honoris Causa at the West University Vasile Goldiș from Arad, and in 2008 the same title was awarded to him by the University of Agricultural Sciences and Veterinary Medicine from Cluj-Napoca. The professional and scientific recognition at national and international level of Prof. Alexandru Moisuc is also highlighted by the over 30 national and international awards and diplomas obtained along his career.

The recognition in the scientific community of Prof. Alexandru Moisuc is highlighted by the fact that he was a member in 10 national and international scientific societies, among which we mention: member in FAO / CIHEAM, honorary member of the Society of Feed Producers from Serbia, associate member of the Academy of Agricultural and Forestry Sciences Gheorghe Ionescu-Șișești and last but not least he was a founding member of the Romanian Grassland Society.

Having in view the remarkable results achieved by Prof. Alexandru Moisuc throughout his career, his name is and it will be a noticeable reference in the Romanian research from the wonderful field of Grassland Science.

We all wish him “Happy Birthday! ”

