OBITUARY
György FÜLEKY (1945-2018) prominent agrochemist passed away

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Professor Emeritus György Füleky former Head of the Department of Soil Science and Agrochemistry, Director of the Institute of Environmental Sciences, Dean of the Agricultural and Environmental Sciences Faculty, and Deputy Rector of the Szent István University died on May 4 2018 at the age of 74.

György FÜLEKY (1945-2018)

György Füleky was born in Ekecs on February 5, 1945. He continued his primary school, high school and university studies in Budapest. He graduated from the Faculty of Chemistry and Physics at the Eötvös Lóránd University in 1968. Between 1968 and 1983, he worked as a research assistant at the Research Institute of Soil Science and Agricultural Chemistry at the Hungarian Academy of Sciences, and after becoming a candidate for agricultural sciences in 1978 as a senior lecturer. The title of his candidate thesis was “The phosphorous state and easily soluble phosphorus content of soils”. Since 1983, he worked as assistant professor at the Agricultural Chemistry Department at the Agricultural University of Gödöllő. His university positions were chronologically the followings: 1987-1990 Deputy Assistant Professor of Agricultural Sciences; from 1991 Professor at the Department of Soil Science and Agrochemistry; from 1990 to 2008 Head of the Department of Soil Science and Agrochemistry; 1991-1994 Deputy Dean of Education of the Faculty. He awarded the Széchenyi Professorate Felowship between 1998 and 2001. He was the deputy rector of the Szent István University from 2000 to 2003. He functioned as Director of the Institute of Environmental Sciences between 2008 and 2010, and as Dean of the Faculty of Agricultural and Environmental Sciences in 2012.

György Füleky had a wide range of education subjects. Most importantly he taught subjects in graduate courses in agrochemistry, soil management, environmental effects of agriculture, geochemical circuits, land evaluation, environmental reconstruction, and environmental practices. In English language he held courses in agrochemistry, plant nutrition, and land evaluation. In the doctoral training program he was responsible for soil fertility and soil chemistry specializations.

György Füleky designed the thematic of the subjects listed above. He prepared the curriculum for agricultural engineer degree after the political change of regime in 1991 on the Agricultural University of Gödöllő. Nationally, in 1989, he prepared a new curriculum for the Soil Science – Soil Fertility Engineer vocational training what he led till 1998. In 1998 he worked on the curriculum of Soil Science for the Faculty of Civil Engineering. After preparing accreditation of the Agricultural Environmental Management vocational training program he led it till 2006.

In 1993 he developed the doctoral training program for Soil and Agrochemical Fundamentals for Environmental Management and led it till 2000. From 2000 he led the Soil Science, Agrochemistry, Environmental Chemistry subareas of the Environmental Sciences Doctoral School to 2014. Under his leadership 16 aspirants earned the PhD degree.

Additionally György Füleky worked out a curriculum for five year university and three-year college education of the Environmental Engineer vocational training. He developed the curriculum for specialization in Disaster Management of that training. Between 2002 and 2005 he participated in the work of the Agri-Bologna Committee and in the design of the BSc and MSc programs. At Szent István University, he developed curriculums for Environmental Engineer BSc and MSc programs. By the end of 2014, MSc's Disaster Management Engineer's curriculum was also prepared by him.

In 1986, he launched the journal "Bulletin of the University of Agricultural Sciences Gödöllő", which was published from 2000 as "Bulletin of the Szent István University". He was chairman of the editorial board of the periodical until its termination in 2012.

Prof. Füleky organized and edited the proceedings of 10 conferences entitled as "Landscape changes in the Carpathian Basin".

He was the author and editor of "A talaj" (Soil) (1988), "Talajtan" (Soil Science) (1999), "Tápanyag-gazdálkodás" (Nutrition Management) (1999), Korszerű tápanyag-gazdálkodás" (Modern Nutrition Management) (2014) and "Tápanyag-gazdálkodás mezőgazdasági mérnökök számára" (Nutrition Management for Agricultural Engineers) (2014) books and textbooks. He did important editorial work in the production of the monograph EOLSS (UNESCO) entitled as "Cultivated plants as primarily food sources" issued in 2000.

Prof. Füleky presented different social activities, as chairman of the Hungarian Quality Compost Society, whereby he was one of the main organizers of the "Biological Waste Management Conference" organized in 2014 Gödöllő. He was a member of the MTA Soil Science, Water Management and Crop Cultivation committee and the Editorial Board of Agrochemistry and Soil Science Journal.

His research topics covered both basic and applied research and development. György Füleky's most important basic research activity focused on determination of the nutrient supply capacity of soils by plants, by chemical methods and their mathematical description. His research included determination of toxic elements in the soil by the rapid seedling biological test and the hot water percolation (HWP) chemical method. He developed a rapid methods for determining nitrogen content of damaged plant parts and fertilizers. In the framework of his applied research, he primarily intended to monitor the unfavorable or favorable effects of intensive crop production and nutrient management technologies on soil. In the field of environmental management, determination of the natural environment of the past times he concerned with the parallel use of soil and archaeological methods. With this concept he initiated a new research branch in the Hungarian soil research.

He has received numerous professional and scientific awards and publishing prizes for his outstanding work.

György Füleky was demanding and knowledgeable. He communicated with literary variety and inimitable kindness, he was shaded and always personalized. People who watched his words and understood his thoughts learned much from him. He was liked by closer and distant colleagues and students because he was straight, warm-hearted and selfless. Through his knowledge, extensive cultivation and unshakeable honesty, he gained undeniable prestige. Because of his gentle nature, helpfulness and special humor, he also had a unique love by his colleagues.

György Füleky's professional work remains active long and even will be continued by his colleagues and students in Hungary and the Carpathian Basin. We are all grateful for his oeuvre, his educational activities and opening the soil science to co-sciences of archeology and agriculture in historical times in Hungary and neighboring countries in the Carpathian Basin. All of us will miss his dear, helpful personality, cheerful humor and professional wisdom. Colleagues working on soil and agrochemistry disciplines, as well as his former students express a thankful heart and ask for eternal rest.

Source of the graphics

Front cover:
Gallo-Roman harvesting machine, called Vallus. Source: U. Troitzsch - W. Weber (1987): Die Technik : Von den Anfangen bis zur Gegenwart

Rear cover:
Portrait of Columella, in Jean de Tournes, Insignium aliquot virorum icones. Lugduni: Apud Ioan. Tornaesium 1559. Centre d'Études Supérieures de la Renaissance - Tours

URBÁNYI Béla, editor-in-chief

DSc /agric/, interim dean of the Faculty of Agricultural and Environmental Sciences of the Szent István University, Gödöllő, Hungary, member of the Animal Husbandry and Foraging Committee of the Hungarian Academy of Sciences. Professional fields: genetics and biotechnology on fish, general aquaculture and water toxicology.

Lucius Junius Moderatus Columella

(AD 4 – 70) is the most important writer on agriculture of the Roman empire. His De Re Rustica in twelve volumes has been completely preserved and forms an important source on agriculture. This book was translated to many languages and used as a basic work in agricultural education until the end of the 19th Century.