

JUBILEE OF PROFESSOR, Dipl.Ing. ALEXANDER SOMMER, DSc., PhD.

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Professor Dipl. Ing. Alexander Sommer, DSc., an outstanding personage of science celebrates his special jubilee in 2006.

He was born in Matejovce at Poprad on 12th October 1936. After he graduated from the University of Agriculture in Nitra (1960) he was engaged in the Research Institute for Animal Production in Nitra, where he worked in the sphere of research of farm animal nutrition during the whole period of working activity.

He obtained the PhD. degree in 1965, and defended DSc. degree as one of the youngest people in the sphere of agricultural sciences in 1977 already. His dissertation theses from the sphere of metabolism of crude protein in ruminants brought original knowledge. He is a docent since 1985 and three years later he was appointed a professor for the sphere of nutrition and physiology of animals at the University for Agriculture in Nitra.

In 1968 he became head of a new created Department for Animal Nutrition that he built from the very beginning and developed up to the Institute of Animal Nutrition within the Research Institute for Animal Production in Nitra. Since 1975 at first as a scientific secretary then as statutory deputy director he was responsible for scientific and research section in the Research Institute for Animal Production.

Scientific works of Prof. Sommer are aimed mainly at problems of nutrients digestion, proteosynthesis and proteolysis in ruminants, ileal digestibility of amino acids in pigs, but he is engaged also in problems of proteins degradability, genetically modified feeds and relations between crude protein and energy in nutrition of animals as well as utilization of stimulating substances and ecological aspects of animal production. From the above mentioned areas he published as author or co-author 228 original scientific works also in periodicals recorded in CC, in collections of papers from foreign and native scientific events; 311 contributions, 38 books, chapters in books and monographs, and 264 articles in specialist and daily newspapers. The importance of his publication activity is supported by 450 bibliographical



references, out of them 143 in SCI index. He is member of editorial councils of native and foreign journals.

Results of his work met with wide acceptance in various, also extra-departmental, institutions. Besides the membership in the Czechoslovak Academy of Agriculture (1980-1990) he was also elected as member of Slovak Academy of Sciences (SAS) as well as Czechoslovak Academy of Sciences, and during the years 1988 – 1990 he was member of their boards. In 2005 he was elected as full member of the Learned Society of SAS, and he is member of SAS scientific board for biological and ecological sciences.

He is member of the Slovak Academy of Agricultural Sciences and its chairman since 2004. Besides he is member of scientific boards in a number of research institutes, universities as well as in scientific organs of outstanding foreign scientific and pedagogical organisations.

Rich are also pedagogical activities of Prof. Sommer. He gives lectures not only at universities at home but also special lectures abroad (Humboldt University, Berlin; Mendel University, Brno and other). As a supervisor he educated a number of scientific workers, and he is very often invited as lecturer by various special-interest organizations and by production sphere.

Important characteristic of Prof. Sommer is his international scientific activity. In 1973 he was already elected as coordinator of the scientific programme "Proteinous and energy nutrition of ruminants" within a common research of the countries of Eastern Europe. A number of important

results were obtained within this research. During the years 1977-1980 he organized and conducted a broad international experiment attended by 7 countries, aimed at metabolism of nonprotein nitrogen in ruminants. Unique knowledge was obtained during the experiment and it was published in foreign indexed journals.

Rich activities of Prof. Sommer were awarded at home and abroad several times. He was awarded by Distinguish Service Award of the European Association for Animal Production in September 2006.

In the last few years he coordinates a number of scientific-research projects. Since 2001 he is active in the project within 5th EU Programme.

We wish him sincerely good health, further success, feelings of satisfaction, and good luck in personal life within family circle, with his colleagues, co-workers and friends.

