

Prof. dr hab. ANDRZEJ WITOLD SADOWSKI – *in memoriam*

Member of International Editorial Board of *Agraarteadus*/Journal of Agricultural Science

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Professor Andrzej Witold Sadowski was professor in the field of horticulture – pomology; Professor Emeritus of Pomology Department, Warsaw Agricultural University – SGGW (at present Warsaw University of Life Sciences – SGGW); Doctor honoris causa of Warsaw Agricultural University – SGGW; and Doctor honoris causa of St. Stephen University in Gödöllő, Hungary.

Andrzej Sadowski lived during the difficult times of the 20th century and his life required fortitude and a decisive moral conduct to overcome its various difficulties. He was born on 14th February, 1931 in Warsaw. After graduating from secondary school in 1949, he started studies at the Horticultural Faculty of Warsaw Agricultural University – SGGW. He received an engineering degree in 1953 and a master's degree in 1954. Already during his master's studies he began work as an assistant in the Pomology Department of Warsaw Agricultural University – SGGW, which was undoubtedly a great honour for a student. After graduating he worked for two years as an agronomist on a State Agricultural Farm at Stara Wieś near Grójec. In 1956 he was sent for doctorate studies to the Timiriazew Agricultural Academy in Moscow from which he graduated in 1960. It was followed by a year at Rutgers University (USA) on a post-doctoral scholarship. After returning to Poland he once again joined the Pomology Department of Warsaw Agricultural University – SGGW, first as an assistant professor and then as an associate professor (1968) and full professor (1980). In 2001 he received the title of Doctor honoris causa granted by St. Stephen University in Gödöllő, Hungary and by Warsaw Agricultural University. During his time at Warsaw Agricultural University – SGGW he was a deputy dean of the Horticultural Faculty (1974/1975) and he held the office of dean of that Faculty for two terms during the period of 1978–84 as well as head of the Pomology Department from 1984 to 1997. From 1975 to 1978 he worked as a professor in the Colegio de Postgraduados in Chapingo, Mexico where he added Spanish to his multiple language proficiencies. His brilliant scientific career was possible due to his wide international contacts, exceptional abilities and painstaking diligence.

A highlight of the scientific work of Prof. Sadowski was a complex study of mineral fertilization of fruit bearing plants in connection with studies of the tree root system. He also studied the causes of physiological disorders of apples and evaluated the usefulness of various rootstocks and systems of

intensive plantings of apple trees. After his retirement he was fascinated by an innovative approach to forming crowns of young 'Rubin' apple trees by nipping and thus stimulating shoots to branch, which resulted in higher crops. The achievements of his experimental work made Professor Sadowski an outstanding specialist in the field of fertilization and biochemical changes taking place at the root-soil contact, work which was recognized both in Poland and abroad. His research resulted in 135 original papers of which he was either lead author or co-author, 97 scientific reports, 6 textbooks and 130 papers on scientific themes for general public. His research and published papers were highly innovative, often pioneering, and inspired many scientists. His papers and reports were published in prestigious journals and industry magazines both in Poland and abroad.

Throughout his career, Prof. Sadowski attracted many young scientists and doctoral students who, apart from collaborating on productive research, facilitated domestic and foreign contacts, obtained research grants, and participated in symposia and conferences at leading research centres and universities around the world. His graduate students included 8 that were granted doctoral degrees and nearly 80 trained to the masters level, including 5 in the College Postgraduates in Chapingo (Mexico). He participated in numerous international congresses and conferences. He was an organizer or co-organizer of 5 international symposia and conferences at Warsaw Agricultural University – SGGW. Most recently he contributed importantly to the organization of the 13th EUCARPIA Symposium on Fruit Breeding and Genetics that took place in Warsaw in September, 2011.

In his scientific activities Prof. Sadowski promoted wide international cooperation, engaging partners from Germany, Belarus, Lithuania, Latvia, Estonia, Russia, Hungary and Canada. In the years 1994–2001 he was a coordinator of programs carried out together with the Belarussian Pomology Institute and the University of Horticulture and Food Industry in Budapest. For 9 years (1990–1998) he served as vice-chair of the Pomology Section of the International Society for Horticultural Science and made key contributions to stimulate this Section and its International Working Groups.

The activities of Prof. Andrzej Sadowski as a researcher, academic teacher and organizer of scientific life at the University, tutor of young scientists and architect of modern pomology were widely recognized and appreciated. He received two awards from the Ministry of Higher Education and Technology and numerous prizes from the Rector of Warsaw University Agricultural University – SGGW. He was honoured with the Gold Cross of Merit and Knight's

Order of Polonia Restituta. He also received a Gold Badge for meritorious service to Warsaw Agricultural University – SGGW.

Professor Sadowski's interests were by no means limited to scientific activities. He was also capable of appreciating the beauty and diversity of nature, spending his holidays on the tourist routes of many countries. His passion was walking in the mountains, contact with nature, and finding beautiful sites among the rocky hillsides. Other passions were his pet monkey and the preparation of home-made fruit liqueurs, including raspberry, cherry, and nut liqueurs. Inspired by the treasures of nature he mastered to perfection methods for bringing out the whole bouquet of marvellous tastes and aromas from fruits.

On 23rd June, 2014 our world became poorer. It lost a man of great stature – friendly and unselfish and at the same time very intent on living and sharing the ethics of a scientist and academic teacher. He was a man of inexhaustible energy, always on the move, full of plans and ideas for new experiments, exploring the world, and maintaining friendships.

Traits so characteristic of Prof. Sadowski were his creativity, exceptional industriousness and the ability of associating facts that were seemingly not connected. With the death of Andrzej Sadowski the Polish scientific world and the community of Warsaw University of Life Sciences SGGW lost a personality with extraordinary virtues of both mind and character, a tutor of many generations of university students, and a man who astonished others with the originality of his observations. It was long ago observed by Goethe that "It is always said that life is short, however, if a man makes the best of it, he can achieve a lot." That was certainly true in the case of our dear friend and colleague, Professor Andrzej Sadowski.

Prof. Dr. hab. Kazimierz Tomala (Department of Pomology, Warsaw Agricultural University) with contributions from Prof. Dr. Silvano Sansavini (Center for Fruit Breeding, University of Bologna) and Dr. Norman E. Looney (Canada, President of International Society for Horticultural Science

Professor Andrzej Sadowski was a member of international editorial board of *Agraarteatus* / *Journal of Agricultural Science* since 2005.