

AN OBITUARY NOTICE

Prof. Ing. Karel Kopec, DrSc.

Karel Kopec, horticultural scientist; * March 9, 1929 – † April 9, 2012



On April 9, 2012, a recognized expert, researcher of international level and popular university professor Prof. Ing. Karel Kopec, DrSc., passed away.

He was born on March 9, 1929, in Ostrava where he successfully graduated from the famous Maticni High School and decided to continue his study at the former University of Agriculture in Brno, renamed at present time to Mendel University in Brno, that he finished in 1952.

Karel Kopec studied horticulture and postharvest technology, became a successful teacher and research worker, and collaborated with numerous research institutions and practices. In 1963 he was habilitated as an associate professor.

During the further development of higher education of horticultural studies in Lednice, Czech Republic, Department of Horticulture was established and Karel Kopec was appointed for its management. Un-

der his leadership this department achieved successful results not only in pedagogy but also in the field of research and within collaboration with practical growers.

This activity was interrupted by violent political events of the late 1960's and early 1970's. Karel Kopec was persecuted and forced to leave his pedagogy position. As a political refugee he worked in Slovakia as a researcher at the former Research and Breeding Institute of Vegetables and Spice Plants in Hurbanovo-Sesileš, later in Nové Zámky, during 1972–1990.

After the political changes in 1989, position of professor Karel Kopec was changed to his received satisfaction. At the Slovak University of Agriculture in Nitra, he was awarded by the title of Doctor of Science in 1990. Then he returned to his original workplace in Lednice and was appointed to the position of professor.

Thanks to Karel Kopec a thriving scientific research workplace was built up, whose results were significantly reflected in the next development of horticulture, post-harvest technology and canning industry. In this respect he performed meritorious work. In 2004 he was named Honorary member of the Czech Academy of Agricultural Sciences. He received important honors – bronze medal from this academy in 2010.

Karel Kopec was member of various scientific organizations, both international and domestic. He collaborated with many research institutes and universities, mainly in Slovakia, Poland, Germany and Hungary. He participated in a range of international conferences and he was a creator of many scientific, professional and popular publications.

Due to his passing is a great loss rise not only for Czech and Slovak specialists, dealing with quality and postharvest technology of fruits and vegetables. Prof. Kopec was excellent and erudite expert, researcher and favourite teacher. He educated a number of enthusiasts who use their knowledge and contribute to the development of Post-Harvest Technology of Horticultural Products.

*Prof. Ing. Magdaléna Valšíková, PhD.
Slovak University of Agriculture in Nitra*