

## RETIREMENT DR. VASILE P. MOLDOVAN

Wheat breeder Dr. Vasile P. Moldovan has reached retirement age of 65 in March, 2012, after more than 40 years devoted to wheat genetics and breeding research.

Dr. Moldovan was born on 10 March, 1947, in Micestii de Campie, a village located in the heart of the rich agricultural area of the county Bistrita-Nasaud from Romania. After completing his elementary school in the native locality, he continued high school education (1961–65) in the town of Bistrita, where his parents moved later. He began his study with the Faculty of Agronomy of the University of Agricultural Sciences and Veterinary Medicine (USAMV) in Cluj-Napoca in 1966 and graduated in 1971. Later, in 2003 he completed a Ph.D. thesis at the same University and earned title Doctor in Agronomy with *magna cum laude*. In order to widen his professional knowledge, Dr. Moldovan visited some research stations in different countries. One of the most important of these visits was made in September–October 1985 at the University of Nebraska.



The first place of work for Dr. Moldovan was at a Seed Production Farm in Taga, where he spent several months (1 November, 1971 to 1 April, 1972) immediately after leaving the university. From here he moved to the Agricultural Research Station Turda, joining to the wheat breeding team in 1972. He gradually worked his hierarchical scientific way up to head of the Small Grains Breeding Department.

Dr. Moldovan and his colleagues established the main objectives of the wheat breeding program as having the main goal developing wheat cultivars able to satisfy farmers' requirements with reference to productivity, quality, and yield stability. To achieve these complex objectives, it was necessary to carry out a wide range of theoretical and methodological research emphasizing on yield and quality as well as on biotic and abiotic stress tolerance. In close cooperation with his colleagues, Dr. Moldovan was involved in development and release of 10 winter wheat cultivars, two winter triticale cultivars, a spring triticale cultivar, and two spring oats cultivars. He authored or co-authored 125 scientific and technical publications in Romanian and other languages (especially English), and made more than 100 lectures to professional and lay audiences.

During 1997–2003, Dr. Moldovan served as Romania's member of Wheat Working Group members of European Cooperative Programme for Crop Genetic Resources Networks (IPGRI–ECP/GR Wheat Working Group Members). He also served as a member of Ph.D. Thesis Committees for some students from USAMV Cluj-Napoca. On many occasions his knowledge and experience have brought a sense of reality to discussions with colleagues and other persons, trying to resolve difficult cereal breeding problems.

We wish to him a long and happy retirement, together with his wife Maria, a former research biologist on wheat disease resistance, and their daughter Luminita, who lives in Bucharest.