



PROFESSOR DOCTOR BOGUSŁAW SZOT (1931–2012)

On October 9, 2012, Professor Doctor Bogusław Szot – one of the founders of the Institute of Agrophysics of the Polish Academy of Sciences (PAN) in Lublin, died at the age of 81.

Prof. Dr. Bogusław Szot was born on March 23, 1931 in Krasne near Lviv. He attended elementary school and high school in Przemyśl. He completed his first (engineer) and second (Master's) higher education degree in the Faculty of Agriculture of the Marie Curie-Skłodowska University in Lublin in Lublin in 1956. That year, with accordance with the work order in effect at the time, he began his appointment as head of the Agricultural Extension Department of the Agriculture University (WSR) in Lublin. Four years later, he was appointed Chair of the Student Practicum Committee.

In 1963, Professor Szot began his scholarly work under the supervision of Professor Bohdan Dobrzański. His main area of research was evaluation of the plant yielding with respect to typology, fertility and bonitation of soils. In 1970, he defended his doctoral dissertation entitled “The influence on soil conditions on the yield of winter rape on the example of the northwestern Rzeszów region”, for which he won the Ministry of Higher Education Award. In the same year, following a recommendation of Professor Dobrzański, he began to work for the Institute of Agrophysics of the Polish academy of Sciences (PAN) in Lublin. At the Institute, he founded the Department of Plant Material Physics and became its Chair. It was during that period that he crafted numerous innovative research methods and designed many equipment prototypes, which had been published

by numerous publishing offices, including that of Polish Academy of Sciences. In 1975, he submitted his habilitation thesis entitled “Methodological aspects of evaluating the influence of soil conditions on the variability of selected physical properties of wheat grain” in the Faculty of Agriculture (WSR Lublin), which resulted in granting him the degree of Habilitated Doctor. This dissertation was granted the Secretary of the Agricultural and Forestry Division PAN Award. In 1984, Professor Szot was promoted to Associate Professor, and in 1989 to Full Professor.

In the years 1985–1993, Professor Szot was the deputy director for research of the Institute of Agrophysics PAN. He was a member of the Scientific Councils of the Institute of Plant Genetics PAN in Poznań (1978–1982), Institute of Plant Physiology PAN in Cracow (1984–1986), Institute of Soil Science and Plant Cultivation IUNG in Puławy (1985–1990), Center of Agrotechnology and Veterinary Medicine PAN in Olsztyn (1990–1999), Institute of Agrophysics PAN (from 1972, including a position of Secretary in the years 1984–1986, and later as the vice-chair of the Council). From the moment of founding of the Scientific Committee of Agrophysics of the PAN, Professor Szot was its member. He was also its Secretary in the years 1981–1983, Deputy Chairman in 1993–99, and Member of the Presidium for the remainder of his life. In the years 1990–1999, he was a member of the Science Dissemination Task Force of the Scientific Research Committee (KBN) of the Ministry of Science and Higher Education in Warsaw. He also served a variety of functions on editorial boards of the following scientific journals: „Problemy Agrofizyki”, „Zeszyty Problemowe Postępów Nauk Rolniczych”, „International Agrophysics” and „Acta Agrophysica”. In 1976, under the auspices of the International Commission of Agricultural Engineering (CIGR), Professor Szot organized the 1st International Agrophysics Conference in Lublin. This conference became a cyclical event and takes place every 4 years in various European countries. In these conferences, Professor Szot was appointed for a variety of Scientific or Honorary Committees. In the years 1976–1985, he was the Secretary of the International Scientific Work Force for the Physical Properties of Plant Material, under the CIGR. In the years 1991–1996, he was a member of the Managing Board of the International Society of Agromaterial Science and Engineering. He actively participated in numerous congresses, conferences and symposia in Poland and abroad (France, Germany, Slovakia, Czech Republic, Hungary, Belgium, Canada, Russia, Italy, the Netherlands), where he presented the results of his research. He was a member of the Polish Society of Agricultural Engineering, Polish Society of Soil Science, Lublin Scientific Society (member of the Board in the years 1995–1999). Under his initiative, the Polish Society of Agrophysics was founded in 1996. He became the President of this society and remained in this function until his death. He was the initiator of seven different branches of this society (Cracow, Lublin, Olsztyn, Poznań, Rzeszów, Wrocław and Szczecin), in which the total number of members exceeds 350

(in 30 scientific locations in Poland and 3 locations abroad). Under his leadership, the Polish Society of Agrophysics was very active and organized each year various scholarly meetings (national and international conferences, retreats, sessions, etc.) and thus integrated the scholars interested in using physical methodologies in agricultural studies.

Professor Szot's scholarly activity included numerous research questions related to the evaluation, characterization and changeability of physical properties of plants and agricultural products caused by various factors during the periods of vegetation, harvest, transport and storage. He also investigated the causes and effects of damage to seeds and other products during harvest and post-harvest processing and evaluated the quality features of the consumption and reproductive material. He perfected his scholarly craft during numerous long-term stays in international research institutions. He cooperated with the Institute of Physics at the Agricultural University of Prague for 30 years, where he published various papers and the culmination of this collaboration was awarding Professor Szot with the Medal of this university. Professor Szot developed a similar cooperation with the Institute of Agricultural Technology in Bratislava, Agricultural University of Gödöllo in Hungary and the Agricultural Institute in Potsdam (Germany). Long-term visits in France (INRA Avignon and Nantes), at the Institute of Agricultural Mechanization CNR in Torino (Italy), Institute of Agricultural Mechanization of the Hohenheim University in Stuttgart (Germany) and the Institute of Agricultural Engineering in Guelph, Saskatoon and Montreal (Canada) yielded substantial results, such as development of unique and innovative research methodologies, technological solutions and numerous publications, which, beyond the above mentioned countries, were also published in the United States of America and Australia.

Professor Szot collaborated to a great extent with the scientific centers in Poland – Agricultural Academies of Lublin, Cracow and Wrocław, IUNG in Puławy, Institute of Plant Genetics PAN in Poznań, Institute of Food Sciences PAN in Olsztyn, plant cultivation stations, variety evaluation experimental stations, as well as the Harvest Machinery Factory in Płock.

The scientific work of Professor Szot includes over 300 publications, including 200 original manuscripts (6 monographs, 64 journal articles, 11 instructional papers and scripts, 19 patents and spec documents and 2 review papers). The most fruitful scientific collaboration of Professor Szot was that with the Departments of: Production Engineering; Agriculture; and Gardening of the Agricultural Academy of Lublin. In over 30 years of his cooperation with the faculty of this university, he had published 65 articles, 7 instructional papers and 13 patents and spec documents.

Professor Szot promoted 8 doctors. He was also the supervisor or promoter of 31 Master's theses in the Department of Agriculture and Production Engineering. He was a reviewer in 9 proceedings related to granting scientific degrees

(or ranks) of Professor, he was a reviewer (committee member) of 9 habilitation procedures including the publication records, as well as 12 doctoral dissertations.

For his contribution and accomplishments in science and organization, Professor Szot was awarded the Silver and Gold Cross of Merit, the Knight's Cross and the Officer's Cross of the Order of Polonia Restituta, the crest of "Service to the Lublin Region" and the medal of the 35-year Anniversary of the Department of Production Engineering of the Agricultural Academy of Lublin. He was also awarded many times by the Secretary of Science of PAN for his outstanding scientific accomplishments.

Professor Bogusław Szot was a great authority in the Polish, as well as international scientific societies with respect to the use of physics for plant material research. He was respected by scientific circles in the whole of Poland. He was, however, an exceptionally humble and generous man. He will forever remain in our memory.

*Board and Scientific Council of the Institute
of Agrophysics Polish Academy of Sciences in Lublin*