Jean-Claude Fardeau (1937–2014)

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Jean-Claude Fardeau, a world known soil chemist, died in 2014. He was born in Poitiers, France, and completed his graduate studies at the National Agronomic Institute in Paris.

He was appointed as a researcher to the Centre for Nuclear Studies Cadarache of the Commissariat à l'Energie Atomique in 1964 and to INRA in 1998 as a deputy chief of the new Department of Environmental Agronomy. He retired in 2002.

Research by Jean-Claude Fardeau has given fundamental contributions to a better understanding of the P dynamics in the soil-plant system also by using labelled P. Particularly important have been his studies on the kinetic of P transfer from soil solution to plants. Data from his studies have been used in international models to predict the effect of environmental changes on soil organic pools in soil. His laboratory attracted many scientists from all over the world, and at the INRA, he has extended his research to other nutrients and supported research programs on biogeochemical cycles of elements.

As well as his very important scientific contribution, his other qualities were his leadership, enthusiasm, humanity, and voluntary consultant to any farmer.

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