
IN MEMORIAM

Ilias Mamedovich Gadzhiev (1935–2006)

DOI: 10.1134/S1064229307030179

On September 12, 2006, the Institute of Soil Science and Agricultural Chemistry of the Siberian Division of the Russian Academy of Sciences suffered another loss: the director of the institute, an adviser to the Russian Academy of Sciences, a corresponding member of the Russian Academy of Sciences and an academician of the Mongolian Academy of Sciences, an honored ecologist of Russia, a winner of the State Prize of the Russian Federation, Doctor of Biological Sciences Professor Ilias Mamedovich Gadzhiev passed away. This is a hard loss not only for the Institute of Soil Science and Agricultural Chemistry in Novosibirsk, with which the entire career of Gadzhiev was associated and which he headed for 20 years, but also for all soil scientists of Russia. In 1986, Gadzhiev succeeded his teacher Prof. R.V. Kovalev as the director of the institute and continued their common pursuit of developing soil science in Siberia, which had been initiated by Kovalev in the 1960s. In 1968, Kovalev with his younger colleagues, including Gadzhiev, organized the Institute of Soil Science and Agricultural Chemistry in Novosibirsk and became its first director. Gadzhiev was appointed a deputy director. He proved to be a thoughtful researcher and a talented organizer. His work at the institute began with the organization of stationary soil studies in different soil-climatic regions of Western Siberia and with numerous field expeditions all over Siberia.

His life and his vigorous energy were fully devoted to the development of soil science in Siberia. The wide scope of his scientific interests was realized in numerous interesting studies in the field of the genesis, classification, geography, and evolution of soils. He was a prominent specialist in soil cartography and an expert in the problems of soil management.

As the director of the institute, Gadzhiev took a heavy burden on his shoulders, particularly in the 1990s, which was a very difficult time for science in Russia. Due to him the institute has survived.

Gadzhiev was also an active member of the Central Council of the Dokuchaev Soil Science Society; he chaired the Novosibirsk oblast committee on environmental protection and was a member of the editorial boards of several journals. He organized and conducted two important soil science congresses: the last All-Union Soil Science Congress in 1989 and the Fourth Congress of the Dokuchaev Soil Science Society in 2004.

Gadzhiev was a winner of several governmental awards for his services to science and his outstanding organizational talents.

Last year, he celebrated his 70th jubilee. A jubilee is a time to summarize and appreciate the results achieved by the person. There were many congratulations and jubilee articles in journals and newspapers emphasizing the numerous achievements of Gadzhiev and his services to science; his roles as a scientist, an organizer of science, a teacher, and a public leader were stressed. There were many warm congratulations from different parts of Russia and from abroad. However, nobody thought that, in fact, this jubilee would summarize the results of Gadzhiev's whole life.

Only a few people knew about his serious illness in recent years. However, Gadzhiev never allowed himself to become immersed in his own problems. He bravely held the line until his last days and always tried to support and encourage others. His unique and unexcelled sense of humor was with him until his last breath.

The sweet memory of Ilias Mamedovich Gadzhiev is with us. In the history of Siberian science and in the history of the Institute of Soil Science and Agricultural Chemistry, the name of one of its founders and directors will be preserved forever.

*Institute of Soil Science and Agricultural Chemistry,
Siberian Division of the Russian Academy of Sciences.*

*Dokuchaev Soil Science Society
Editorial Board*