IN MEMORIAM

Dmitry Nikolaevich Durmanov 1934–2009

DOI: 10.1134/S1064229310050169

Doctor of Agricultural Sciences Professor Dmitry Nikolaevich Durmanov, a leading researcher of the Dokuchaev Soil Science Institute, passed away on November 19, 2009, after a serious illness. He was an outstanding soil scientist, physiologist, biochemist, ecologist, agrochemist, and philosopher.

His death was a great loss to many scientists and organizers of science and educational activity. This is an unrecoverable loss to Russian and foreign researchers working in the fields of soil science, plant growing and physiology, agrochemistry, and fruit- and vegetable growing, with whom Dmitry shared his knowledge and experience for many years. His death brought grief for all the people who were lucky enough to meet this exceptional, fascinating, erudite, purposeful, hard-working, wise, and worthy man.

In 1957, Durmanov successfully graduated from Timiryazev Agrarian Academy (TAA; now Timiryazev Russian State Agrarian University) and was appointed to the position of an acting senior researcher in the Laboratory of Physiology and Biochemistry of the Far

East Agricultural Research Institute (Khabarovsk). In 1960, he returned to Moscow as a graduate student of the TAA Fruit Growing Department. In 1963, he defended his PhD thesis and started to work as a teaching assistant in the Plant Growing Department of the Agricultural Faculty of the People's Friendship University of Russia. In 1964, Durmanov became a senior lecturer, and, in 1965, he was appointed an associate professor. Working in this department, he became the first to develop an original course on tropical and subtropical fruit growing.

Durmanov is the author of several monographs and many publications devoted to such problems as soil fertility management, the inorganic nutrition of plants, fruit growing in tropical and subtropical climatic zones, modeling of soil fertility and its reproduction, development of methods for the evaluation and prediction of the soil fertility level, the study of the ideological and scientific basis of the world organic farming in the XXI century, and even some philosophical problems. His monograph *Tropical Fruit Cultures*

(1975) was translated into foreign languages and awarded an Honor Diploma of the Soviet Ministry of Higher Education. Durmanov's books serve as basic textbooks in the universities of many countries for preparing specialists for tropical and subtropical agriculture. The total volume of his textbooks makes up about 40 printer's sheets.

In 1982, Durmanov was chosen for the vacancy of the head of the Laboratory of Soil Fertility Diagnostics of the Dokuchaev Soil Science Institute and worked there until 2009. Since the 1980s, he headed a new direction of studies in the field of agricultural soil science, which was based on a comprehensive approach to the evaluation of the soil conditions for plant growing using the soil–plant diagnostics of the nutrition of different agricultural crops.

In 1986, Durmanov successfully defended his doctoral thesis, and, in 1989, he became a professor. The range of his scientific interests was very wide. He developed a theoretical basis and technical approach for soil fertility management and the idea and methods of soil fertility modeling. The methodical approach for the fast diagnostics of the mineral nutrition of many agricultural crops was developed and implemented under his supervision. Durmanov continued his studies on the fertility of tropical and subtropical soils and fruit crops; he developed some recommendations and proposals for cooperation in this field with such tropical countries as India, Laos, Cambodia, Argentina, Brazil, and Colombia. He performed the economic analysis and evaluation of the environmental consequences of different natural and man-made impacts and developed promising land utilization models. From 1993, Durmanov headed the Foundation for Agrarian Development Research (FADR).

Dmitry Durmanov had a very wide range of interests and encyclopedic knowledge in the fields of plant growing, agronomy, horticulture, agrochemistry, soil science, agriculture, sociology, and philosophy. He knew the English, French, German, and Spanish languages and perfectly understood both domestic and foreign literature.

Along with his science activity, Dmitry Nikolaevich continued his educational work. He developed and read several courses of lectures for the People's Friendship University of Russia and the Timiryazev Russian State Agrarian University and the Interna-

tional Soil Science Courses of the Higher School of Management at the USSR Ministry of Agriculture. He was a scientific adviser for more than 20 successful graduate students, including foreign ones. For several years, Durmanov was also a scientific supervisor of special research of the USSR Ministry of Higher Education devoted to the problems of agricultural education abroad.

Durmanov was a brilliant lecturer and outstanding teacher who always tried to inspire his students to obtain new knowledge.

Having a keen and emotional nature, Durmanov several times changed the direction of his studies. As a result, he did not receive any honorary titles, but this fact did not upset him. Nevertheless, his scientific achievements were recognized by many Russian and foreign scientists. He was awarded a 1st rank Williams prize for his advances in applied soil science. Many times he was awarded honorary decorations and diplomas of the Ministry of Higher Education, the Presidium of the All-Union Academy of Agricultural Sciences (VASKhNIL), the Soviet Afro–Asian Solidarity Committee, and other organizations.

His scientific authority and managerial abilities allowed Dmitry Nikolaevich to be a member of the Central Board of the Dokuchaev Soil Science Society, the chairman of the Scientific Council of CMEA countries, the vice-chairman of two VASKhNIL sections (the tropical agriculture and agronomical soil science sections), the vice-chairman of the Committee on the Fast Diagnostics of the Mineral Nutrition of Different Agricultural Crops, a member of the Expert Commission of the State Planning Committee, a member of the Editorial Board of the journal *Pochvovedenie*, etc.

As Dmitry's colleagues, we are very proud of the fact that we were lucky enough to work with this true scientist and outstanding person. All of us—his colleagues, friends, and students—will forever miss his wise advice, understanding, smile, and humor; we are missing them already...

*The Dokuchaev Soil Science Institute
of the Russian Academy of Agricultural Sciences
The Dokuchaev Soil Science Society
The Editorial Staff and Editorial Board
of the journal Pochvovedenie*