

Dr. Alexander Victorovich Anaschenko

V. S. Pustovoit Prize Winner 1985, USSR

Dr. Alexander Victorovich Anaschenko is a senior research worker at the “N.I. Vavilov” All-Union Institute of Plant Industry (VIR), Leningrad, the USSR, co-ordinating all research activity with oil crops, particularly sunflower. He has been involved in sunflower investigations since 1965, working for 20 years in the VIR Department for Technical Plants and at the VIR Research Station of Kuban.

His main contribution is connected with the collection, conservation and evaluation of sunflower genetic resources, both cultivated and wild introductions. Thus, he studied a large collection of more than 2,000 cultivated sunflower forms, identified the genotypes with the highest general combining ability and developed, by selfing within them, an important set of inbred lines with different useful genetic characteristics. Besides the cultivated sunflower, more than 600 wild sunflower introductions were studied in the germplasm nursery, along with 2,500 herbarium leaves. On the base of these studies, Dr. A. V. Anaschenko proposed a new systematics of the *Helianthus* genus and established the centres of genome origins and the centres of the greatest diversification of sunflower species and forms.

Dr. A. V. Anaschenko has contributed to the large international exchange of sunflower germplasm resources, resulting in the genetic enrichment of the world sunflower breeding material. He himself developed a large breeding programme at the Kuban Research Station and obtained perspective inbred lines and hybrids.

Apart from these outstanding achievements, Dr. A. V. Anaschenko has significantly contributed to the improvement of breeding and hybrid seed production methodology, with special emphasis on cytoplasmic male sterility, tester evaluation and selection evaluation of resistance to diseases and insect pests etc.

Dr. A. V. Anaschenko is author of many valuable scientific publications, frequently cited in sunflower literature, such as those concerning the genetic system CMS-Rf in sunflower, the sunflower genetic resources and their utilisation in breeding works, sunflower geographical distribution and classification etc. The recent monographic study “Sunflower”, as part of the large publication on the “Cultivated flora of the USSR” constitutes a remarkable contribution in this field.