

*Dr. Georgieva-Todorova*

*Dr. Georgieva-Todorova* dedicated 40 Years of scientific research to sunflower, over a period spanning from 1950 to 1990. Her entire career was spent at the Bulgarian Academy of Sciences in Sofia, carrying out research devoted to understanding the genetics and cytogenetics of the genus *Helianthus*.

Dr. Georgieva-Todorova was born in a rural area of Northern Bulgaria. In 1950, she completed her University education at the Higher Agricultural Institute, Department of Selection, in Saratov, Ussr. In 1959 she defended her Ph. D. thesis and in 1973 she was awarded the degree Doctor of Sciences. She was named Head of the Department of Genetic Relationships at the Institute of Genetics in the Bulgarian Academy of Sciences, Sofia. In this capacity, she was responsible for several postgraduate, Ph.D., and post-doctorate students.

The main aim of Dr Georgieva-Todorova's research was to study the cytological relationships between cultivated and wild species of sunflower. This research enhanced the transfer of useful characteristics from wild relatives to cultivated sunflower. Based on the karyotype of interspecific crosses and their fertility rates, genetic relationships were determined between cultivated sunflower and the different taxonomic sections of *Helianthus*. Idiograms of ten different ploidy species along with detailed studies of 16 species and their interspecific hybrids were originally studied by Dr. Georgieva-Todorova. For the first time in sunflower, *in vitro* techniques were developed and utilized to avoid the incompatibility barriers of interspecific crosses. The results of Dr. Georgieva-Todorova's research have been published in more than 100 scientific papers in refereed journals of international prestige, at different international conferences, and in several symposia of sunflower researchers. She served the sunflower industry by being a member of the Executive Committee of the International Sunflower Association and was a long-term member and one of the most active participants in the Cytogenetics Section of the FAO Subnetwork on Genetics.

For her dedication to her profession and for her contributions to the scientific knowledge of sunflower, she is a recipient of the V.S. Pustovoit Award.