

## **Prof. Dr. Dragan ŠKORIC**

Prof. Dr. Dragan Škoric was born on September 16, 1938 in Vedašić near Korenica, Croatia. He finished primary school in Baki Brestovac and secondary school in Sombor and graduated from the Novi Sad Faculty of Agriculture in 1963. In 1964, he began working as Assistant in sunflower breeding at the Institute of Field and Vegetable Crops in Novi Sad.

Prof. Škoric got his MSc degree in Plant Genetics and Breeding at the Novi Sad Faculty of Agriculture in 1968 and defended his PhD thesis at the same faculty in 1975.

In 1990, he received full professorship in Plant Breeding and Seed Science at the Faculty of Agriculture in Novi Sad.

In 1989, he was elected Head of the Institute's Oil Crops Department.

Prof. Škoric was the mentor of a number of PhD and MSc candidates.

Prof. Škoric's is the main author of 26 sunflower hybrids that are currently grown in Serbia. Internationally, he is the main author of 72 Novi Sad hybrids released and grown across Europe, including Italy, France, Russia, Ukraine, Moldova, Hungary, Bulgaria, Spain, Czech Republic, Slovakia, Romania, and Turkey. Prof. Škoric also has rich experience in international cooperation and ran joint hybrid development programs with a large number of institutes and companies worldwide. As a result of this collaboration, over 40 joint hybrids have been developed thus far.

Prof. Dr. Dragan Škoric has authored or co-authored three sunflower monographs and more than 200 scientific and 50 technical papers.

In 1989, he became Coordinator of the FAO European Cooperative Research Network on Sunflower and editor-in-chief of the international sunflower journal *HELIA*. At the time, he was also the Yugoslav representative on the Main Board of EUCARPIA and a member of the Executive Committee of the International Sunflower Association (Paris, France).

Prof. Škoric's work has won him a number of domestic and international awards, including the Pustovoit Award in 1988.