



Dr. Alex Viorel Vranceanu.

ISA Executive and V. S. Pustovoit Prize Winner 1980. Romania.

Dr. Vranceanu has been working as a sunflower breeder and geneticist since 1959. He is the breeder of the high oil open pollinated variety Record (1965) and the single hybrids Romsun 52, Romsun 53, Romsun 59, Sorem 80, Sorem 82, Felix, Select and the three way hybrid Super, registered in Romania and other countries in the period 1971-1983. He is the breeder of a large set of inbred lines with great genetic diversity, and was one of the pioneers and promoters of sunflower hybrids who released the first commercial hybrids produced on a nuclear male sterility basis.

Dr. Vranceanu, who studied with V. S. Pustovoit in the U.S.S.R. and then with E. D. Putt in Canada, has made important contributions to the methodology and techniques of sunflower breeding and seed production, especially regarding cytoplasmic male sterility, pollen fertility restoration, and the genetic resistance to the main sunflower diseases. He identified the first gene for resistance to downy mildew (*Plasmopara helianthi*) noted by the symbol P11, and so released the first hybrids resistant to the attack of this pathogen. He also identified the gene Or5 conferring resistance to the most recent race of *Orobanche cumana* and discovered the first sources of resistance to the attack of *Phomopsis helianthi*.

Dr. Vranceanu has published 130 scientific and extension papers as well as the monographic study "*Floarea-soarelui*", and has made a remarkable contribution to the establishment and development of genuine and fruitful international scientific co-operation within the framework of the FAO Research Network on Sunflower. He has been the co-ordinator of this network since 1975 and in this capacity edits the information bulletin 'Helia'. Dr. Vranceanu was the Secretary General of the Sixth International Sunflower Conference held in Bucharest in 1974 and was elected as the first President of the ISA and served in this capacity from 1974 to 1978.

In 1980 Dr. Vranceanu won the coveted V. S. Pustovoit Award for his outstanding contribution to the sunflower industry.

Past President Wally Sackston said Alex Vranceanu was part of a group of remarkable plant breeders who have turned sunflowers into one of the glamorous crops, and the second most important vegetable oil crop in the world.