

## CHRONICLE

### Vytautas Antanas Šlapakauskas, an acclaimed Lithuanian researcher-plant physiologist, has turned 75



Vytautas Antanas Šlapakauskas was born on April 1938 in Meižiai, Širvintai municipality. He studied at Vilnius Agricultural College (1953–1957) and the Lithuanian Academy of Agriculture's (currently – Aleksandras Stulginskis University) Faculty of Agronomy (1957–1962). He graduated from university with an Honours Diploma in Agronomy (scientific agronomist). In 1963 he started his career at the Lithuanian Academy of Agriculture's Department of Botany as an assistant, since 1964 he was employed as senior lecturer on plant physiology. By successfully combining pedagogical work with research activities, in 1969 he defended dissertation for the degree of candidate of biology sciences (currently PhD). In 1970, he was granted the title of associate professor, in 1991 the title of professor. Apart from his pedagogical activities, the professor did administrative work. In 1971–1979 and 1995–2006 he was head of the Department of Botany, and in 1979–1992 he held the post of Dean of the Faculty of Agronomy. Since 2010 he has been Professor Emeritus.

The professor's field of research is effects of herbicides on plants and micro-organisms. He has researched the biology of micro-organisms, the interactions between fruit trees and weeds, complex slow-release fertilizers, nutrient substrates of greenhouse vegetables, biology of *Valeriana officinalis* L., supervised projects for Master's and PhD degrees, together with his doctoral students conducted fluorimetric and photometric plant analyses. During his

scientific research career he has published 70 scientific and 110 popular articles.

One of his major activities is textbook writing. He compiled a coursebook "Plant physiology" whose separate chapters were written by plant physiology lecturers from Vilnius University, Vilnius Pedagogical Institute (currently – Lithuanian University of Educational Sciences) and Lithuanian Academy of Agriculture. The coursebook became very popular and was issued in three editions in 1974, 1988, and 1991. He co-authored a textbook "Botany and fundamentals of microbiology" designed for agricultural colleges in 1980. A textbook "Plant physiology with fundamentals of microbiology" was compiled in 1990. In 2006, a textbook "Plant ecophysiology" was produced. Its separate parts were issued in 1998, 2001 and 2006. "Plant ecophysiology" is a comprehensive scientific study in which the author used 247 literature references. In 2008, in cooperation with professor P. Duchovskis he wrote a textbook "Crop productivity" intended for doctoral students, and in cooperation with doc. J. Kučinskas – "Plant nutrition" designed for Master's degree students. Other major publications were coursebooks "Plant physiology laboratory works" (1999, 2005, 2007) and "Description of plant physiology laboratory works" (2010).

Till now he has been a member of the Editorial Board of the scientific research journals "Zemdirbyste-Agriculture" and "Agronomy Research".

Professor Vytautas Šlapakauskas raised his scientific and work qualifications by doing internship in Moscow's (Russia) and Kiev's (Ukraine) Agricultural Academies, Swedish University of Agricultural Sciences, various Polish institutions of studies and research, Welsh University (Bangor), Sydjysk University Centre (Denmark), Hohenheim University (Germany).

For his long-term pedagogical work, research and social activities professor Vytautas Šlapakauskas has been presented with University's certificates of appreciation, a medal for his achievements, the Supreme Council's certificate of appreciation, he has been awarded the honorary title of a merited lecturer.