

Obituary

In Memoriam Professor András Fekete



Professor András Fekete
(1936–2013)

The community of the Agricultural Engineering and Food Engineering suffered a great loss. In the 77th year of his life, on 7th March 2013, Prof. Dr. András Fekete, Founding Editor-in-Chief of the Progress in Agricultural Engineering Sciences, doctor of agricultural sciences, a prominent researcher of agricultural engineering and a devoted teacher of his students, tragically died.

In 1961, András Fekete graduated in agricultural mechanical engineering from the University of Agricultural Sciences, then he started his career as a research worker at the Hungarian Institute of Agricultural Engineering. In 1979 he became the Head of Control Department/Division of this Institute. His activities were related to testing, research and development of tractors, transport vehicles, hydraulic systems, testing monitors and automatic control systems, R&D of agricultural control systems and computer-based systems.

In 1972 he obtained his PhD degree in Agricultural Science, and in 1989 the outstanding academic degree DSc (Doctor of Science), awarded by the Hungarian Academy of Sciences. Dr. András Fekete was the member of the Committee on Agricultural Engineering of the Hungarian Academy of Sciences and its vice president since 2008.

In 1991 he became Professor at the Faculty of Food Science of Corvinus University of Budapest (at that time University of Horticulture and Food Industry) and Head of the Department of Physics and Control. Scientific areas of activity in the field of Food Engineering were research of physical properties of agricultural materials and foods, R&D of nondestructive methods and instrumentation, R&D of non-contact measurement methods and instruments for quality assessment, research in the field of application of an electronic tongue for quality assessment of liquid foods, and R&D of instruments and control systems (computer-based and PLC-based) for food industry.

From 1996 to 2000 he was Dean of the Faculty and from 2000 to 2007 Head of the PhD School of Food Science. In 2006 he became Professor Emeritus. In 2006 he was awarded the Knight's Cross of the Hungarian Order of Merit.

He passed his knowledge to hundreds of students in the field of measurement techniques, automation and process control. He was particularly successful in talent management. He controlled innumerable students' and PhD students' work who achieved excellent results. In 2005 a Master Teacher Award recognized his activity as a supervisor.

He was a prominent figure in the Hungarian agro-technical scientific life; he felt as a personal obligation the service to the national agricultural research and scientific and technical education.

His colleagues, students and friends keep with reverence the memory of the scientist!

Péter Szendrő and József Felföldi