

PhD. PROF. IOAN SAFTA (1897 – 1983), PĂRINTELE ȘTIINȚELOR PRATICOLE DIN ROMÂNIA

PhD.Prof. Ioan SAFTA, honoured member of Agricultural and Forestry Academy was born on April 21, 1897 in Luncoiu de Jos commune, near Brad city, Hunedoara County. He was the third from the nine childs which prof. Ioan Safta and Anastasia Safta, born Ioanovici, had.

He spend his childhood in the born village, he followed the primary school in Brad city and the secondary school in Brașov, where he passed de bachelor exam in 1914.

After the years of The First World War (between 1914 – 1918) on which he tooked part, he followed the Agriculture Academy in Cluj (1919 – 1923) and from 1992 he was hired on The Department of Botany and Phytopatology where Iuliu Prodan, one of our first botanists, was the titular professor. After three years in which he was assistant on Botany discipline in 1925 he worked for a short period of time on the Geodezy Institute from Cluj and than at the Agricultural School from Turda (as teacher and principal director).

Under the patronate of prof. Nicolae SĂULESCU within ICAR rased Plant breeding and and seed control Station (SAPCS) from Cluj where Ioan SAFTA was hired as Laboratory Manager/ Responsible.

Short time after he was hired he was send on Halle University, Germany where he reached the title of Doctor in Biology Sciences.

He turn back to SAPCS, Cluj and since than his activity was focused on studying the mountain grassland from Apuseni and Retezat and the hill grassland from Transylvania and Timis Plain. He wrote in premier the first three research article between the years 1936 and 1943.

As pioneer in studying the Romanian Carpathian grassland he initiated works and he managed specialists in the study of Apuseni, Rodnei and Făgăraș Mountains grassland until the year 1940 and later on when he moved on Craiova in Parâng Mountains. He was Manager of the Laboratory of Grassland Science on the Agricultural Experimental Station from Șimnic – Craiova between the years 1957 – 1968, period after which he retired and moved to Timișoara.

As recent employer in the grassland scientific research in December 1967, I was glad to take part to the retiring festivity of prof. Ioan SAFTA, occasion which aloud me to know him closer.

As son of the Apuseni Mountains, he wrote in one article mentioned by

Prof. Gheorghe ANGHEL, published in "New Agriculture" no. 10 from 1938, about the economical future of this area: "When this beautifull mountains will entail tourists like Sweeden Alps do, when they will shelter toy industry, cheese next to the gold prosper industry, when the ribs and ravenes washed today by rainfalls will be covered entirely by forests and within valleys will be full of trees and grain cereals and forage crops specific to the soil-climatic conditions, just than the wealth and joy will be installed in Apuseni Mountains taking the place of today misery and poorness."

Besides the distinguished scientist he was, Ioan SAFTA was also an exceptional universitary professor. In 1934 he was hired as professor on the Agricultural Academy from Cluj, being both professor on Phytotehny Departement and Director SAPCS, Cluj between 1939 – 1940, after Prof. Nicolae SĂULESCU departure to Bucharest. Between the years 1940 – 1945 he activated in Timișoara period after which he retuned to the Agricultural Academy from Cluj, until 1948 when he was transferred to the new Agronomical Institute from Craiova (1955 – 1962) until his retirement in 1967.

In the year 1955 he was entitled as docent and in the year 1969 he was elected as honoured member of ASAS.

For his fruitfully activity which summarizez more than 150 scientific papers in grassland science among with numerous universitary courses in the same topic mentioned already he was distingueshid with Labory Order, third class in the year 1954.

In 1972 he took part on the 9 FAO Grup Reunion which was organized on Grassland Culture Research Station Brasov and where he met specialists in the field of grassland science from 10 European countries (Austria, RS Cehoslovak, Sweeden, France, RF Germany, Italy, RFS Iugoslavya, RP Polon, RS Romania and Spain).

Professor Ioan SAFTA wrote in a book publishe in 1980 that "The art of living suppose that life should have a precisely purpose, an ideal", thought followed by him with perseverance. He was dedicated to a noble cause namely the one of studying Romanian grassland and to substantiate the scientific measures for their improvement and management.

Proff. Ioan SAFTA is one of the pioneer's of grassland research from our country and he will always be remembered by all those who met him and his work.

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Teodor MARUŞCA,
General Secretary of SRP