

## In memoriam

### Professor Zvonko Katić, PhD

(11 March 1927 – 24 March 2007)

---



Zvonko KATIĆ was born on 11 March 1927 in Osijek, where he attended elementary and secondary school. He graduated from the Osijek Gymnasium in 1945.

Unfortunately, the adolescence of Professor Zvonko Katić was marked by adversities of the II World War, when he was recruited in the Yugoslav People's Army as a seventh grade student of the Osijek Gymnasium, which left deep traces on him.

When discharged from the Army, he resumed his education and in 1956 he graduated from the Technical Faculty's Mechanical Engineering Studies in Zagreb.

The professional work of Professor Zvonko Katić commenced as far back as 1947 when he worked as plant engineer in the sugar refinery in Osijek, and as from 1957 he was acting general manager of Agricultural and Industrial Concern Belje in Darda. From 1963 he was acting general director of agricultural supply sector of Zagreb. In 1964 he became an associate at the Institute for Animal Nutrition and Animal Feed Technology of the Faculty of Agriculture.

He was awarded his doctor's degree by the Faculty of Agriculture in Zagreb in 1971, with his doctoral thesis: Influence of after-drying cooling rate of corn kernel on quality of kernel and potentials for expanding dryer capacity. At the same Faculty he became assistant in 1971, senior lecturer in 1976, associate professor in 1980, and full professor in 1988.

After his work at the Institute for Animal Nutrition and Animal Feed Technology he moved to the Institute for Mechanics, Technology and Construction, and in 1990 as part of when the restructuring of Faculty, the Institute for Agricultural Technology, Storage and Transportation was founded and he was at its head until his retirement.

He lectured and held seminars on animal feeding and animal feed technologies as well as seminars related to agricultural mechanical engineering.

At the very beginning of his career Professor Zvonko Katić became aware of the exceptional value of the communication with the international scientific community, so he travelled to upgrade his professional knowledge in USA, England, The Netherlands, Sweden, Austria, Germany, Switzerland, Italy, France, Poland.

The commitment of Professor Zvonko Katić and his attachment to his work and constant endeavour in promoting his science is very well illustrated by the number of masters of sciences and doctors of science, who under his professional guidance, sharp-minded but always friendly and encouraging supervision successfully completed this highly demanding assignment.

He was specialized in agricultural energy and bioenergy issues and was especially successful in designing and construction of facilities and appliances which brought improvements in feed mixture technologies (dryers, storing facilities, blenders) for so many companies in Croatia and abroad.

During his whole professional career Professor Zvonko Katić was very active and committed teacher of the Faculty of Agriculture in Zagreb. In addition to his teaching obligations and education of number of generations in undergraduate and postgraduate studies, Professor Zvonko

Katić, inspired by his vision and diligence, dedicated his time to a wide range of activities. In 1985, with assistance of his peers at the Institute, he founded the Consulting for drying and storing technologists, well know and popular “Zrnko”, a convention that gathers together for 20 years now the technologists from all over Croatia and the world.

Professor Zvonko Katić also led a great number of scientific and professional projects. In the 1980-ties he ran the construction of the first biogas plant in the former state, in Vel. Trnovitica near Bjelovar. He was the first in Croatia to initiate the utilization of biodisel and biomass as well as other alternative energy sources in agriculture. His priority topics were management and operation, regulation, automation and instrumentalisation of transportation, storage, drying and production of feed mixtures, especially in the context of enhancing energy efficiency. He gave a great contribution to improving the internal transportation systems.

He was a member of the “Emergency Reconstruction Project”, a group of the World Bank dedicated to the reconstruction of the Republic of Croatia in the field of agriculture, and worked on construction of the dryers. With his collaborators he formulated the “Rules for examining the adequacy of dryers”, used for determining technological parameters of dryers.

During his career Professor Zvonko Katić worked together with various commercial companies and other parties, ranging from factories and feed mixture plants, agricultural concerns to the design studios and construction companies in Croatia, Austria, Hungary, Germany, The Netherlands, France, Poland and the countries of the Former Yugoslavia. The results of this cooperation were new products, innovations and patents.

When Croatia became independent Professor Katić was the first to initiate the re-establishing of Matica Hrvatska and was the first Head of its Department for Agriculture.

He was editor and member of editorial boards of a number journals and his scientific and reference works were published in publications *Krmiva*, *Agronomski glasnik*, *Agrotehničar*, *Gospodarski list*, *Bilten Poljodobra*, *Die Mühle und Mischfuttertechnik*, *Poljoprivredna znanstvena smotra*, *Poljoprivredne aktualnosti*, *Poljoprivredni kalendar*, *Energija*, *Fokus*.

He is the author of the textbook *Drying and dryers in agriculture (Sušenje i sušare u poljoprivredi)* and many course-books and co-author of *Manual on production and use of animal feed – feed mixture (Priručnik o proizvodnji i upotrebi stočne hrane – krme)*, of books: *Modern corn production (Suvremena proizvodnja kukuruza)*, *Complex Mechanisation in corn roduction (Kompleksna mehanizacija u proizvodnji kukuruza)*, *Agricultural Encyclopaedia (Poljoprivredna enciklopedija)*.

For his work and endeavours Professor Zvonko Katić received many professional awards and he is also a holder of Testimonial Medal for his participation in the Homeland War.

At the end, remembering Professor Katić, this always enjoyable and good-humoured man, gentle parent, committed teacher, ever-ready traveller and sincere patriot, we can only say:

On behalf of so many generations of your students thank you, Professor Katić, for the knowledge and time you gave us so unselfishly. We shall nurture you memory with joy and reminiscence.

Stjepan Plietić