

“In Memoriam”

Dr. Wojciech M. Demby

On October 24, 1999, dr. Wojciech M. Demby, the former deputy-director and a long-term scientific worker of the Institute of Plant Protection, suddenly died at the age of 72.

He was born on March 3, 1927 in Lublin, but from the youngest age his life was connected with in Poznań Region.

In 1947 he received his school-leaving certificate at the Lyceum n.a. Henryk Sienkiewicz in Września, and in 1951 – the degree of M.Sc. of economy after graduation from the Commercial Academy and Higher Economic School in Poznań.

In 1957 he began working at the Institute of Plant Protection in Poznań, initially as the head of the Investment Department, and from the year 1958 as a deputy-director for engineering and technical affairs.

In 1965, when his deteriorating health did not allow him to fulfil his duty, he turned to a scientific work, holding the position of the main economist of plant protection. At that time he began one of the first studies in Poland concerning plant protection economy with a particular reference to assessment of losses caused by agrophages. These studies had fructified his doctoral thesis entitled “Economic and Law Bases of Plant Protection in Poland in 1945-1965”, which he defended at the Law Department of the University n.a. Adam Mickiewicz in Poznań.

On receiving the degree of a doctor of law sciences, dr. W. M. Demby was employed as a professor assistant and took over the direction of the Laboratory of Plant Protection Economics and Informatics.

He continued his scientific activities, simultaneously undertaking studies on the history of plant protection. He published many papers in this field, among others, those concerning the history of plant protection in Poland in the oldest newspaper reports on pest appearance on Polish lands. In 1969, at the IXth Scientific Session of the Plant Protection Institute, he presented a joint report written together with Professor Węgorzek under the title “From Psalteries and Superstitions to Integration of Plant Protection Methods”.

However, economics of plant protection remained the main direction of the studies conducted by dr. W.M. Demby. He also published numerous original papers representing not only the current evaluation of agrophage-caused yield losses of the most crop plants in Poland, but also profitability of plant protection treatments as well as directions of plant protection modernization as a result of using economical thresholds and aspiration for the development and dissemination of integrated plant protection programs.

He widely popularized that economic and modern approach to plant protection in many articles and participating in trainings and meetings of different group of specialists.



Nowadays, scientific works of dr. W.M.Demby are a very valuable source of information on plant protection in Poland in the years 1965-1985.

In connection with his deteriorating health he passed to a disability payment, which led to the ending of his work at the Institute on March 14, 1986.

Now he has passed away, but through his scientific works and contribution to the development of the Institute of Plant Protection he will remain in our memory for ever.

Profesor dr. hab. Stefan Pruszyński

LIST OF SELECTED PUBLICATIONS

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2. Demby W.M., Turowski W. 1967. An attempt to assess the economic value of the herbicide usage in cereals. Biul. Inst. Ochr. Roślin nr 36: 291-298 (in Polish, English summary).
3. Demby W.M., Turowski W. 1968. Economics of herbicide usage on peas and lupins. Biul. Inst. Ochr. Roślin nr 40: 63-81 (in Polish, English summary).
4. Demby W.M. 1969. The problem of estimation of the losses in yields, considering the investigations conducted in Poland. Post. Nauk Roln., nr 3-4: 83-97 (in Polish).
5. Węgorzek W., Demby W.M. 1969. From sorcery and superstition to integrated control. Biul. Inst. Ochr. Roślin nr 44: 5-17 (in Polish, English summary).
6. Demby W.M. 1969. Zarys historyczny ochrony roślin w Polsce. Post. Nauk Roln., nr 1: 109-132.
7. Demby W.M. 1970. Ekonomiczne prognozy szkodliwości w ochronie roślin. Międz. Czasop. Roln., 1: 36-42.
8. Demby W.M. 1970. Ochrona roślin w Polsce w latach 1946-1965. Studium ekonomiczno-historyczne. Roczn. Nauk Roln. – Seria D, 190: 1-191.
9. Demby W.M. 1970. Wzrost znaczenia ochrony roślin w warunkach intensyfikacji produkcji rolnej. Nowe Rolnictwo nr 15: 17-19.
10. Demby W.M. 1972. Najdawniejsze doniesienia prasowe o pojawie szkodników na ziemiach polskich. Post. Nauk Roln., nr 2: 101-105.
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12. Demby W.M. 1978. Economical effectiveness of chemical plant protection treatments in main field cultures in Poland in 1974-1976. Materiały 18. Sesji Nauk. Inst. Ochr. Roślin: 405-422 (in Polish, English summary).
13. Demby W.M. 1982. Role of plant protection treatments in the increase of yield of more important field cultures in Poland. Materiały 22. i 23. Sesji Nauk. Inst. Ochr. Roślin: 41-48 (in Polish, English summary).
14. Demby W.M. 1983. Chemical pest control as the factor of yield increase and rentability of field cultures. Results of investigations carried out in 1973-1978. Prace Nauk. Inst. Ochr. Roślin 24 (2): 11-68 (in Polish, English summary).
15. Demby W.M. 1984. Current problems in the plant protection economics. Zesz. Probl. Post. Nauk. Roln., nr 246: 23-40 (in Polish, English summary).
16. Demby W.M. 1984. State and trends of scientific research on the plant protection economics in Poland. Zesz. Probl. Post. Nauk Roln., nr 246: 97-106 (in Polish, English summary).
17. Demby W.M. 1985. Die Rolle des Pflanzenschutzes bei der Steigerung der Erträge der wichtigsten Kulturen in der VR Polen. Nachr. Pflanzenschutz in der DDR, 6: 134-135.