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Editor's notes

IN MEMORIAM OF PROFESSOR STANISŁAW PABIS

Professor Stanisław Pabis passed away suddenly on September 13, 2019, at the age of 94.

We lost an outstanding scientist in the field of Biosystems Engineering who founded the scientific school of methodology of empirical sciences and who made a significant contribution to the development of systems engineering in agriculture and food processing.

Professor Stanisław Pabis was born on 23 April 1925 in Krosno. He graduated from the Faculty of Mechanical Engineering of the Gdańsk University of Technology in 1952 and was employed by the newly created Institute for the Development, Mechanization and Electrification of Agriculture (IBMER) in Warsaw in the same year. Stanisław Pabis continued to pursue an academic career during his employment at the IBMER. He was awarded a doctor's degree in Technical Sciences at the Faculty of Mechanical Engineering of the Warsaw.

University of Technology in 1960, the degree of habilitated doctor in Agricultural Sciences at the Faculty of Agriculture of the University of Agriculture in Lublin in 1966, the title of Associate Professor of Technical Sciences in 1971, and the title of Full Professor in 1983. During his employment in the IBMER in 1952-1980, Professor Pabis founded and managed the Agricultural Drying Plant in the Institute's Branch in Kłudzienko (1954-1970). The plant featured the most advanced drying laboratory in Europe at the time. In 1971-1980, Professor Pabis founded and managed the Cybernetics Department of the IBMER in Warsaw. Between 1977 and 1995, Professor Pabis was a member of the academic staff of the Warsaw University of Life Sciences, where he was the Dean of the Faculty of Agricultural and Forest Technology (1981-1987) and the Head of the Department of Agricultural Process Engineering (1980-1995). He was a member of numerous Polish and international scientific associations and committees.

Professor Pabis' greatest scientific achievements were in the field of the drying of agricultural products. His research on the mathematical modeling of drying kinetics in agricultural products, conducted during a Rockefeller

scholarship program in 1960-1961, remains the cornerstone of scientific literature on agricultural drying methods, and his papers have been cited and referenced thousands of times. The results of his research into agricultural drying techniques were summarized in two books: *Theory of Convective Drying of Agricultural Products (Teoria konwekcyjnego suszenia płodów rolnych*), published by PWRiL in 1982, and a collective monograph entitled *Grain Drying – Theory and Practice*, published by John Wiley and Sons in New York in 1998. Professor Pabis also authored numerous articles in the leading scientific journals around the world. His scientific work also involved practical achievements, including many patents and designs of new drying equipment. Professor Pabis also conducted research into methods of empirical research, which gave rise to three books: *Methodology and Methods of Empirical Sciences* (*Metodologia i metody nauk empirycznych*), published by PWN in 1985, *Methodology of Empirical Research – 12 Lectures* (*Metodologia nauk empirycznych – 12 wykładów*) and *Methodology of Empirical Research – 15 Lectures* (*Metodologia nauk empirycznych – 15 wykładów*), published by the Koszalin University of Technology in 2007 and 2009, respectively.

Stanisław Pabis participated in several research placements and scientific internships, including at the Michigan State University in 1960 as a scholar of the Rockefeller Foundation, at the University of California in 1960-1961, and at the University of Manitoba, Canada in 1990-1991 as a scholar of the Natural Sciences and Engineering Research Council of Canada. He gave many lectures in research centers in the USA, Canada, Germany, the Netherlands, Great Britain, Hungary and other countries. In 2004, he was the first senior scientist in Poland to have received the NESTOR scholarship from the Foundation for Polish Science.

Professor Stanisław Pabis founded two academic education programs that were held each year in Poland. The first was the *School of Agricultural and Forest Engineering Systems* which was created in 1978 and managed by Professor Pabis for 25 years. The aim of this novel initiative was to disseminate knowledge on the latest research methods in the community of Polish agricultural engineers. The second project was the *School of Empirical Sciences Methodology* which opened in 1986 and was managed by Professor Pabis for 25 consecutive years. The school was established to promote the knowledge of research methodology among young scientists. Professor Pabis fervently supported the reintegration of the discipline of Agricultural Engineering into the field of Engineering and Technical Sciences, which ultimately took place during his career.

The main scientific and academic achievements relating to Professor Pabis' key research interests include 235 articles that were authored or co-authored by the Professor in Polish and foreign scientific journals (half of which are single-author papers), five books authored by the Professor, four books co-authored by the Professor, supervision of 23 doctoral students, reviews of 44 doctoral

dissertations, 45 habilitation theses, and 26 evaluations of candidates for the title of professor. Professor Pabis also managed several dozen research projects.

Professor Stanisław Pabis was held in high esteem by the Polish community of biosystems and agricultural engineers. He was a respected authority whose achievements were widely recognized in the domestic and international scientific arena. He was a mentor and a teacher of many generations of scientists, doctoral students, and students of agricultural engineering. He received numerous awards and honors for his scientific, teaching and organizational achievements. He was awarded the following Polish state decorations: Silver Cross of Merit, Order of Polonia Restituta, and the Medal of the Commission of National Education. He was awarded on many occasions by the ministers of science and education, the Polish Academy of Sciences and the Rector of the Warsaw University of Life Sciences.

Professor Pabis retired in 1995 at the age of 70, but he continued to actively participate in scientific and academic life. Stanisław Pabis was a modest man who made ends meet on a small pension, but he never lost his passion for science. On 19 September 2019, Professor Pabis was scheduled to deliver a lecture on non-measurable sets during the Fourth Polish School of Biosystems Engineering. Unfortunately, his presentation never saw the light of day. We have lost a man of great passion (Professor Pabis was an avid mountain climber, swimmer, skier, photographer and gardener) and a scientist with many interdisciplinary interests (methodology of empirical sciences, astrophysics, physics, mathematics, philosophy, biology). Professor Pabis dedicated his life to the search for truth and the pursuit of ethics in science. He was a lenient tutor and supervisor to young scientists, and a great educator to many generations of undergraduate, graduate and postgraduate students.

When talking about Professor Stanisław Pabis, his co-workers always referred to him as "my Professor" or "our Professor", and this is how we will remember him.

Co-workers
Professor Małgorzata Jaros, PhD, Warsaw University of Life Science
Professor Marek Markowski, PhD, University of Warmia and Mazury in Olsztyn
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