

## **To the memory of professor Teresa HULEWICZ**

**(1916-1994)**

Professor Teresa Hulewicz, an outstanding scientist in the field of cytogenetics, a pioneer in breeding polyploid forage plants and a respected teacher at several Polish agricultural universities, passed away on 29 July, 1994 in Lublin.

She was born on 13 February, 1916 in Cracow. In 1938 she graduated from the plant breeding department at the agricultural faculty of the Jagiellonian University. Soon afterwards she received a grant for research trip to Svalöf, Sweden, where she was engaged in genetics studies supervised by Prof. NILSSON. She came back to Poland shortly before the outbreak of the World War II. During the German occupation she worked as a research assistant in the State Research Institute of Agricultural Farming at Puławy, dealing with cereal breeding, mainly triticale.

As soon as the occupant had left Lublin Mrs. HULEWICZ started to co-operate in organising agricultural faculty at the newly established Lublin University. After she had been given the Ph.D. degree on the basis of her previous research on triticale, she went to Svalöf again and specialised in cytogenetics under prof. LEVAN's guidance. In 1946 she spent several months in famous French company Vilmorin, which was a period of her special training within the field of commercial plant breeding. After her return to Poland she began her research and didactic work at the agricultural faculty of Poznań University, being guided by Prof. BARBACKI, an outstanding specialist in the field of quantitative genetics and plant breeding. Prof. Barbacki and Prof. Hulewicz initiated the department of plant breeding at the Agricultural University which arose from agricultural and forest faculties of Poznań University. Besides the basic research on the influence of colchicine on mitotic cycle in plant cells, Prof. Hulewicz worked also on the application of induced polyploidy in improvement of crops, mainly leguminous forage plants. Her research resulted in getting interesting information concerning the influence of chromosome doubling on the yield of green mass and seeds, and on the effect of inbreeding and heterosis, as well as in obtaining autotetraploid cultivars of seradella and red clover.

In 1958 she was nominated as associate professor and moved to Olsztyn where she organised the department of plant breeding at the local Agricultural University. In 1959 she was granted a Rockefeller Foundation fellowship and thus was able to get acquainted with the research conducted in the field of genetics and plant breeding at the leading

American Universities. In 1965 she returned to Lublin and organised the department of horticultural plant breeding and genetics at the Lublin Agricultural University. She was in charge of the department until her retirement. In 1972 she was nominated as professor. In that period she published a number of valuable papers on genetics and breeding of polyploid vegetables and ornamentals. Her research resulted in developing new ornamental cultivars, characterised by large flowers. She was also engaged in cytogenetics and breeding of improved strawberry cultivars, suitable for processing and cold storage.

The bibliography of Prof. Hulewicz accounts to several dozens of scientific papers, more than half of them published in English or German. An honorary title of doctor honoris causa was conferred on Prof. Teresa Hulewicz by the Agricultural University in Lublin in 1990 in acknowledgement of her great achievements in the field of cytogenetics, plant breeding, and didactic work.

After having retired, Prof. Hulewicz continued her research work and was always willing to give her help and advice to numerous breeders. From the very beginning she was a member of the Editorial Board of the Polish Journal of Theoretical and Applied Genetics *GENETICA POLONICA* and a chief editor of the *PRZEGLĄD ZAGRANICZNEJ LITERATURY NAUKOWEJ z ZAKRESU GENETYKI i HODOWLI ROŚLIN* (Genetics and Plant Breeding of the Foreign Scientific Literature Abstracts) published in Polish. This publication was highly appreciated by Polish breeders, who usually had no contact with specialized foreign literature. Let me also mention the unusual personality and moral strength of Prof. Teresa Hulewicz. While many scientists, considering their own careers, favoured the Lysenko's "agrobiological" theories in post-war Poland, Prof. Hulewicz remained true to her convictions and revealed genuine science to her students. Apart from that she seemed to possess a limitless physical energy and never-ending optimism which she showed even in hard moments of her life.

For hundreds of her students and friends Professor Teresa HULEWICZ will remain an unquestionable symbol of brilliant and tireless work, moral wisdom and courage of conviction.

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