



CURRICULUM VITAE

ATANAS IVANOV ATANASSOV,
Academician

Director of AgroBioInstitute,
Sofia, Bulgaria

Linguistic ability: English, Russian, French

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Birth date: August 14, 1943

Education:

Ph.D. Institute of Genetics, BAS, 1977
Agriculturalist Higher Institute of Agriculture, Agronomy Faculty, Sofia, 1967

Professional experience:

2001 – Director of AgroBioInstitute, Centre of Excellence to the EC, Kostinbrod, NCAS, Bulgaria
1994 – 2000 Director, Institute of Genetic Engineering, Agricultural Academy, Kostinbrod, Bulgaria
1993 – 1994 Head of “Cell Genetics” department, Institute of Genetic Engineering, Agricultural Academy, Kostinbrod, Bulgaria
1988 – 1993 Director, Institute of Genetic Engineering, Agricultural Academy, Kostinbrod, Bulgaria
1985 – 1988 Director, Central Laboratory of Genetic Engineering, Agricultural Academy, Kostinbrod, Bulgaria
1974 – 1985 Group coordinator on “Cell Genetics”, Institute of Genetics, BAS
1969 – 1974 Chief of laboratory on “Tissue and Cell Cultures”, Institute of Sugarbeet
1967 – 1969 Institute of Sugarbeet, specialist in the laboratory on “Tissue and Cell Cultures” – a pioneer in giving the start of scientific research activities in the field of plant biotechnologies

Scientific Qualifications and Positions

2003 Academician, Bulgarian Academy of Sciences
2003 Member of the Russian Academy of Agricultural Sciences
2001 Doctor Honoris Causa of University of Agricultural Sciences and Veterinary Medicine, Cluj-Napoca, Romania
1997 Corresponding Member of Bulgarian Academy of Sciences
1994 Professor, De Montford University, Leicester, UK
1993 Member of the Ukrainian Academy of Agricultural Sciences
1989 Dr. Sc. in Agronomy, Agricultural Academy, Sofia

Honours and Prizes

2004 Honoured scholarship – prize from the Japanese Society for scientific development
2003 Complimentary address and plaquet from Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry for significant activity and success of the projects within EC’s Fifth framework program for scientific research, technological development and demonstrations
2003 Diploma from Ministry of Education and Science for activity and success of the projects as a result of participation in the EC’s Fifth framework program for scientific research, technological development and demonstrations
2001 Honored as Expert on the problems of genetically modified organisms biosafety – ICGEB course, Florence, Italy



- 2001 200 thousand USD donated to the Institute of Genetic Engineering (at present ABI) by the US Government to support the biological studies of American and Bulgarian seeds and plants
- 2000 EC Center of Excellence, Brussels. Estimated with the highest score of points among all the 176 candidates from Central and Eastern Europe
- 2000 Diploma from EUREKA fair, Brussels 2000 for the innovations in the plant genetic resources program
- 1999 Honorary member of the American Biography Institute
- 1996 Nomination Advisor to the Japan Prize Selection Committee at the Foundation for Science and Technology of Japan
- 1995 Honoured scholarship – prize from the Nuclear Agency, Vienna, Austria
- 1995 Honored medal from the University of Izmir, Turkey
- 1995 Member of the Academy of Sciences of New York
- 1991 Honoured scholarship – prize from the Japanese Society for scientific development
- 1970 Diploma for successes achieved in the research work in the field of agriculture

Member of Editorial Boards

- 2005 – Member of the Editorial Board of the journal “Plant Cell Reports”
- 2004 – Member of the Editorial Board of “Journal of Balkan Ecology”, Bulgaria
- 2003 – Honorary editor of “Journal of Natural Fibres”, Polan
- 2001 – Member of the Editorial Board of the journal “Acta Agriculturae Serbica”
- 2001 – Member of the Editorial Board of “Journal of Agriculture and Forestry”, Turkey
- 2001 – Member of the Editorial Board of the journal “Forest Science”, BAS, Bulgaria
- 1998 – Member of the Editorial Board of the journal “Bulgarian Tobaccos”, Bulgaria
- 1998 – Member of the Editorial Board of “Bulgarian Journal of Agricultural Science”
- 1997 – Member of the Editorial Board of the journal “Agricultural Science”, Yugoslavia
- 1996 – Member of the Editorial Board of the journal “Matica Srpska Proceedings for Natural Sciences”, Yugoslavia
- 1995 – Member of the Editorial Board of “Journal Annals of Biology”, India
- 1995 – Member of the Editorial Board of the journal “Emerging Technology Trends: Biotechnology” UNIDO, Austria
- 1995 – Member of the Editorial Board of “Journal Genetics”, Yugoslavia
- 1989 – Chief Editor of the journal “Biotechnology and Biotechnology Equipment”, Bulgaria

Scientific Publications

Publications in refereed journals – 180	Chapters of books – 9
Reports presented at conferencies and symposia – 112	Manuals – 2
Posters presented at conferencies and symposia – 125	Books – 3
Brochures and bulletins – 4	Proceedings – 6

Citation: 496 quotations are used in 52 publications, placed in 77 editions. 70 of these editions have the following impact factor: **Total impact factor: 36.829 points**
Bibliometrical analysis and educational expertise: **Personal impact factor: 43 points** (out of 50)

Membership in Boards and Scientific Councils and Committees

- 2003 – Chairman of Black Sea Biotechnology Association
- 1995 – Coordinator of the Programme for Plant Biotechnologies for Bulgaria and the Balkan Countries
- 1994 – Executive director of Bulgarian Center at the International Center on Plant Science “Norman Borlaug”, at The De Montford Institute, Leicester, UK
- 1989 – Member of the board of Directors of the International Center for Genetic



Engineering and Biotechnology (ICGEB), Trieste, Italy and executive of the ICGEB Affiliated Center of Bulgaria presented by AgroBioInstitute, Kostinbrod, Bulgaria.

Membership in International Organisations

2001 –	member	EUCARPIA – European Association for Research in Plant Breeding
1995 – 2001	national correspondent	EUCARPIA – European Association for Research in Plant Breeding
2000 –	national correspondent	EPSO – European Plant Science Association
1999 –	member	JSPP – Japan Society of Plant Physiology
1998 –	member	ESNA – European Society for New Methods in Agricultural Research
1993 –	member	IS – MPMI – International Society for Molecular Plant – Microbe Interaction
1992 –	member	IPTCA – International Plant Tissue Culture Association
1985 – 1992	national correspondent	IPTCA – International Plant Tissue Culture Association

Main Directions of the Scientific Research Activities

1. Development, adaptation and application of genetic engineering methods (tissue cultures, cell and molecular genetics) aiming to increase the effectiveness of the genetic and breeding programmes for increasing the efficiency of creation of valuable genetic diversity in economically important species, bearing carrying agronomically valuable traits like:
 - Resistance to diseases (virus, fungal and bacterial), herbicides (in order to eliminate weeds and parasite plants), heavy metals and pesticides in soil, drought и freezing (low and high temperatures);
 - Improving plant qualities, used as food for humans (β -carrotin, lycopin) and animals (consistance of aminoacids, proteins, lignin, lactoferrin, etc.);
 - Improvement of early raping and productivity;
 - Increasing the quality and quantity of biologically (secondary) active compounds in medical and herbal plants.
2. Development, adaptation and application of DNA marker methods for accelerating and improving the effectiveness of plant breeding process based on an early evaluation of the breeding material, derived from remote hybridization and somaclonal variations in economically important cultures: barley, wheat, sunflower, tomatoes, tobacco etc.
 - Development of highly effective methods for genotyping and evaluating the available genetic resources resources, keeping the purity and stability of the existing varieties and hybrids and the protection of the intellectual property rights.
3. Development, adaptation and application the methods of *in vitro* clonal micropropagation and virus diagnosis of valuable vegetatively propagated species and field crops and the development of prebasic and basic certified material for the respective nurseries and breeding programs. The final goal is to develop genetically authentic and phytosanitary healthy plant material.
4. Development, adaptation and application of gene cloning methods for establishing a unique gene bank, containing genes determining economically important characters, needed for the improvement of plant breeding programmes through gene transfer techniques.
5. Development, adaptation and application of genomics methods for unique national germplasm with high economical value by studying the expression and function of various metabolites in relation of the variations of the genotypes and the environment.
6. Establishment and application of biosafety regulations. Organization of the control in the use of genetically improved plants. Evaluation and management of the risk from developing and releasing GMO into the environment. Increasing the public knowledge and creating of national information system – biosafety database.