

„We have a duty to preserve, respect and protect the soil”*

Acad. Cristian Hera

Dear President of the Romanian Academy,
Academician Ioan-Aurel Pop,
Dear President of Agricultural and Forestry
Sciences Section, Academician Doru
Pamfil,
Dear Vice-President of the Academy of
Agricultural and Forestry Sciences, Aurel
Badiu,
Distinguished participants,

It is a privilege and a great honor for me at the age of 91, as dean of the members of the Romanian Academy and those of the Academy of Agricultural and Forestry Sciences in the field of soil science, to wish all participants, from abroad or Romanians, present in the Aula or online, welcome, health and full success to the session „New Trends in Soil Science”.

Allow me to express my thank to Academician Doru Pamfil and prof. Martin Gerzabek, recently elected honorary member of the Romanian Academy, for initiating this debate by the Romanian Academy in collaboration with ASAS, as well as to prof. Gerard Jitareanu, president of the soil protection commission and dr. Aurel Badiu, vice-president of ASAS, for the contribution brought to the organization and elaboration of the program of our today debate.

In Romania, soil science has „deep roots”, tradition and achievements. In the book *The 8th World Congress of Soil Science – Plea for Soil*, published in 2015 by the Romanian Academy Publishing House, concrete references are listed that support the above statement:

„..... the 8th World Congress an unprecedented scientific debate, a reference event for

the development of agriculture in the past decades, with echoes full of respect and consideration for Romanian science”.

The Bucharest Congress of the International Society of Soil Science (SISS) has gathered the largest number of participants in the history of SISS; 1190 from 63 countries representing the 5 continents, with a balanced weight between theoretical and applied research. The Congress is inscribed in the history of ISSS as:

- an event of excellence through the value of the participants, through the theoretical and practical solutions presented, through the contributions made to universal knowledge;
- an exemplary scientific event through the appropriate conception and organization of the soil science disciplines, harmoniously balanced;
- a scientific event that opened the possibility of knowing the evolution of soil science: conservation, improvement, sustainable use and performance, a primordial resource for the future of humanity.

We are not wrong if we say that soil is a natural treasure, a true archive of planetary history, a faithful witness of the past and the present and at the same time an open book for the future.

In this context, I recall that in the 500s BC The great Greek philosopher, Heraclitus of Ephesus, speaking of the role and importance of the soil, stated: „The health of people is the expression of the health of the earth”. After 2500 years, the concept of „one health” is in the attention of specialists from many countries.

Our great predecessor and Romanian patriot Gheorghe Ionescu-Șișești devoid of any political

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connotation, wrote: „The earth is the main wealth of Romania, but it is not an inexhaustible treasure, an interminable good. We have the duty to preserve it and take care of it, so that it always remains the source of life and the means of existence of the Romanian people” and stated: „To love one’s homeland, to work for its prosperity, is more than a virtue, it is a supreme duty”.

After 65 years of uninterrupted activity in studies on soil fertility, plant nutrition, utilization of all sources of fertilizers, I can state without reservation that by caring for and protecting the SOIL, we can ensure food security and safety, a healthy environment for life, and build a sustainable and efficient present and future.

Aggressive anthropogenic activities, the drastic degradation of natural resources, economic and social instabilities, increasingly evident at a global level, determine a deep commitment of specialists, researchers, professors, all those involved in agriculture and its related activities, but especially legislative and executive forums, in the radical change of concepts regarding the optimization of the ways, means, and measures

that are required to be applied in the new conditions determined by the changes occurring at a planetary level.

In the program developed by the event organizers, topics of great importance for the present and the future are nominated, with prestigious personalities as authors, known and recognized in the community of soil science specialists. I am convinced that the papers presented in today’s session will be nominated numerous ideas, research topics, proposals for prevention and resilience of anthropogenic aggressions

Distinguished participants,

We have a duty to preserve, respect and protect the soil – the land on which we live and which ensures our existence, that of all, strengthens the sustainability of food security so necessary for the peace and security of our future, the future of humanity. Consequently, let us assume the responsibility of consolidating the national treasure, the world treasure – the soil – the Earth.

I wish full success to the moderators, presenters and participants of the session, accompanied by wishes of good health and success.