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Professor Luiz Carlos Federizzi
Award for Distinguished Service to Oat Improvement



Dr. Luiz Carlos Federizzi grew up in Marau, South Brazil, and received his degree in Agronomy in 1974 from Federal University of Santa Maria. From 1975 to 1978, he worked as a wheat breeder at the Experimental Station of Julio de Castilho, a Governmental research institution of Rio Grande do Sul State. From 1978 until his retirement in 2013, he worked as a professor of plant breeding at the Federal University of Rio Grande do Sul (UFRGS), in Porto Alegre. In 1979, he received his MS in Plant Science from UFRGS and, in 1986, his PhD in Genetics and Plant Breeding from the University of California, Davis. In 1994, he became Full Professor. In 1997, he spent a one year sabbatical period at the University of Minnesota.

During his 35 years at UFRGS, as the leader of the Oat Breeding Program, Dr. Federizzi's research focused on small grains, mainly oats. This very successful program released 32 oat varieties adapted to South Brazilian environments, many of them becoming the most popular amongst growers, helping to change the dependence of the country from being an oat importer to self-sufficiency. Such achievements have led Dr. Federizzi to help other oat breeding programs in Brazil and abroad as well, such as in Argentina and India. His research also concentrated on unraveling the genetic basis of the main agronomic traits involved in the adaptation of small grains to subtropical environments. More recently, Dr. Federizzi has also engaged in the research and analysis of agro-industrial chains and technologies of productive structures.

His academic activities included teaching a number of courses, such as evolution of cultivated plants, theory of selection, resistance to plant diseases, topics in agribusiness, physiogenetics, plant breeding and seminars for both graduate and undergraduate students. He was also a member of many internal and external committees, such as Science and Agribusiness, the University Academic Senate, the Rio Grande do Sul State Foundation for Science (FAPERGS), the Brazilian Council for Scientific and Technological Development (CNPq) and the National Coordination for Improvement of Academic People (CAPES). He still serves on the last two committees. During his career, he authored or co-authored more than 135 peer-reviewed scientific papers, sixteen book chapters, hundreds of abstracts and short communications and advised 30 MS and 17 PhD students.

Dr. Federizzi was also involved in administration, as the coordinator of the Post-Graduate Program in Plant Science (1996-1997), Head of the Field Crops Department (1988-2000), and Director (2004) and Vice-Director (2005 to present) of the Center of Interdisciplinary Studies in Agribusiness. In extension, he advised many growers and companies about oat growing and usage. Dr. Federizzi received a number of awards: in 1988, "The Future of the Land" from the Commerce Newspaper; in 2001, the "Outstanding Researcher" from FAPERGS; in 2002, the "Ceres Trophy" from the Federation of Agriculture of Rio Grande do Sul State; and, in 2011, the "Prof. Ernesto Paterniani Award" from the Brazilian Plant Breeding Society. For his contribution to scientific and technological research and for the development of qualified human resources for research in Brazil, he has been granted the highest level of the Productivity Research Fellowship from CNPq. Despite being retired, Dr. Federizzi still works at the University as an invited researcher, showing the same enthusiasm as when he started.