

IN MEMORIAM

Lenom Cajuste (1929 - 2008)

On May 16, 2008, our colleague and Coordinator of the Mexican National Chapter Prof. Lenom Cajuste passed away. His death is a great loss for the humic substances community. We will always treasure his memory.

Dr. Lenom Cajuste Jean-Philippe was born on May 16th, 1929, in the city of Jeremie, Haiti, son of merchant parents. In 1954, he graduated as a lawyer, and later as an Agronomist, at the University of Haiti. He obtained his Master Degree in Science at the Escuela Nacional de Agricultura in Mexico in 1962; in 1971 he obtained his Ph.D. at the University of Wisconsin, in Madison.

In 1964, he began the establishment of the first network of laboratories dedicated to soil, water, and plant analysis to incorporate the area of influence of the Orinoco river to the agricultural production in Venezuela. Later, he became a Professor in the School of Agronomy of the University of Venezuela, in Caracas.

1972 he joined the Colegio de Postgraduados where he was a Research Professor in the Area of Soil Chemistry. As a professor he formed researchers in Soil Chemistry and Environmental Contamination at all levels: Ph.D. (9), Master's (54), and Bachelor's (11), including among them people from other countries. As a member of the Academic Committee of Soil Science, he promoted the development of infrastructure, including the construction of the Soil Science and Water Science Building in 1987, as well as obtaining equipment for the Soil Chemistry laboratories with vanguard technology.

He was one of the founding partners of the Mexican Society of Soil Science. His accomplishments as a member of the SNI (National System of Researchers), evaluator for the CONACYT (National Council of Science and Technology), Reviewer for Journals, Coordinator of the Mexican Chapter of the IHSS, and member of ASA, SSA, and IUSS, among others, helped the Colegio de Postgraduados to be projected as an institution of international prestige.

His research includes studies on soil, water, and plants, working mainly on gramineas, fruit trees, and industrial crops such as sugarcane and gumtree. He wrote several articles and book chapters for national and internationally established publications on soil fertility, rehabilitation, and contamination. His book "Soil Chemistry with an Agricultural Approach" has been a basic course material for Undergraduate and Graduate studies in national institutions as well as in Central and South America.

In his more than 35 years of service, he participated in projects financially supported by the Mexican Presidency, the Tamaulipas State Government, National (SAGARPA-SAG, IMTA, INMECAFE, IMPA) and international (CIMMYT) institutions.

His wife, Anne-Marie Bontemps, is a nation-wide known medic-cytologist whose work is known for her labor against Cervix-Uterus Cancer. Their children, two women and two men, are all scientists like himself and committed to the nation that has seen them grow.

Dr. Lenom Cajuste Jean-Philippe and his memory will remain in the life and minds of all those of us who had the honor of knowing him and sharing with his experiences and his life.

Alejandrina Ruiz Bello