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INFORMATION ON ACADEMY OF SCIENCES OF THE BULGARIAN PEOPLE'S REPUBLIC

Acad A. I. Khadzhiolov

More than 300 senior and junior scientific associates and assistants are working in institutes of the Academy of Sciences of the Bulgarian People's Republic, and this number is increasing annually. The budget of the academy is also increasing annually, and at present is hundreds of times larger than that of the pre-September 1947 period. Large sums have been disbursed for the construction of new institutes, and buildings for the following institutes are now under construction: Institute of Plant Cultivation, Institute of Zootechnics, Veterinary Institute, and Institute of Microbiology. Plans have been drawn up for the construction of buildings for the Physical, Chemical, Geological, and Medical Institutes.

At present, the academy consists of seven departments, as follows: Physico-mathematical and Technical Sciences; Geologicogeographical and Chemical Sciences; Biological and Medical Sciences; History, Archeology, and Philosophy; Linguistics, Ethnography, and Literature, Legal and Economic Sciences; and Graphic Arts and Culture. The formation of independent Departments of Agricultural, Chemical, and Technical Sciences has been suggested. The departments of the academy control thirty scientific research institutes, five museums, zoological and botanical gardens, mountain stations, and general academic libraries. The academy has its own publishing house and typographical and other institutions.

Scientific workers of the institutes of the Academy of Sciences of the Bulgarian People's Republic, and in particular those of the Institute of Geology, Institute of Geography, Institute of Agricultural Biology, Institute of Animal Husbandry, Institute of Soil Studies, Institute of Physics, Institute of Chemistry, Institute of Engineering, Institute of Bacteriology, Institute of Medicine, Veterinary Institute, Institute of Zoology, Institute of Botany, and the Institute of Architecture are doing much for the solution of important problems in industry, agriculture, and transport and for the utilization of the native wealth of the country.

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Geologists and mining engineers have conducted much work on the construction of the "Stalin", "Kolarov", and Studena reservoirs. Many of them, such as Academician S. Dimitrov and I. Yovchev, Corresponding Member of the academy, have received high government awards, and Eng Prof Vimo Filov has been awarded a Dimitrov Prize for his development of the project for the "Kolarov" Dam.

The Institute of Geology of the academy is sending out scientific expeditions with the aim of discovering the location of phosphates and other rare materials necessary to the "Stalin" Chemical Combine in Dimitrovgrad.

Physicists, geodesists, and engineers are giving enormous assistance in the solution of a series of basic problems connected with the fulfillment of the state plan in the fields of electrification, the electrical industry, machine building, the wood-processing industry, water supplies, etc.

Bulgarian chemists are working on problems in the production of zinc, lead, silver, copper, and synthetic rubber. The Institute of Chemistry of the academy has successfully carried out a plant experiment on the production of vegetable oils by a new method. A machine for the separation of maize germs from the seeds has been constructed and put into operation. Assistance has been given to the pharmacological, wood rosin, chemical, perfumery, and other branches of industry.

The Institute of Soil Science of the academy was formed in 1947. Workers of the institute took part in the Soviet-Bulgarian soil-science expedition in 1947 under the leadership of I. N. Antipov-Karatayev and I. P. Gerasimov, the well-known Soviet soil scientists. The classification of soils established by the expedition are serving as a basis for the composition of a soil atlas of Bulgaria. Workers of the Institute of Soil Science have carried out research on considerable areas in southern Bulgaria which must be irrigated, and have established a detailed map of certain regions. In connection with soil microflora, the institute has established that an important microorganism -- nitrogen-assimilating bacteria -- is particularly widespread in tobacco plantations and rice fields. The discussion organized by the academy has had great significance for science and practice in connection with the erroneous theory of "shallow tilling," in the destruction of which Vulko Chervenkov has given valuable personal assistance.

In 1949, after the conference on the problems of biology conducted by the academy, biology in Bulgaria was reconstructed on the basis of Michurin teaching, and turned its attention to the needs of agricultural practice. The conference on problems of animal husbandry, convened in 1950, was a continuation of the biological conference. The publication of a series of works such as The Flora of Bulgaria by N. Stoyanov and B. Stefanov, Meadow and Pasture Vegetation in Connection With the Problem of Forage, and others by botanists and agricultural biologists have had a great practical significance for agriculture.

The Institute of General Biology is linking its work much more successfully to the demands of practice. Experimental methods for practicing the teaching of Academician M. Popov on stimulators have been devised. These methods were used on 800 hectares of state and cooperative land. Academician B. Stefanov has found a method of accelerating the sprouting of grains of low [-percentage?] germination. As a result of his method, it is possible to obtain uniform seeding with germination up to 90%.

Extensive research on the tuber bacteria of the soybean, the kidney bean, pea, etc. has been carried out under the leadership of Academician V. Markov, with the aim of improving the bean yield. Preparations for the vaccination [sic; probably coating of seeds with bacterial fertilizer] of seeds of these plants have been obtained in order to increase their productivity.

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The Institute of Animal Husbandry has also been solving problems posed by the Five-Year Plan. The institute has achieved good results in raising the milk yield of cattle of local Iskur breeds and in work on the investigation of local breeds of fine-wool sheep and egg-producing breeds of hens.

The Institute of Microbiology of the academy has introduced the pectinose (dl-arabinose) preparation "Bistrin," which has been successfully used in purification of fruit juices in the canning industry. This has obviated the import of preparations from abroad. A group of scientific workers headed by Academician Stefan Khadzhidobrev has been awarded a Dimitrov Prize for this work.

The work of the Institute of Zoology of the academy has an important significance for agriculture, particularly for control of harmful insects.

Public health has been completely transformed. Many scientific workers of the Institute of Experimental Medicine and the Institute of Social Medicine of the academy, of certain scientific research institutes of the Ministry of Public Health and Social Welfare, of the Medical Academies in Sofia and Plovdiv, and of the Institute of Specialization and Training of Doctors are working on a series of important problems connected with the teaching of I. P. Pavlov and O. B. Lepeshinskaya's new theory of the origin of cells.

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