

## Professor ZHANG Fusuo GCHERA Laureate 2020



Professor ZHANG Fusuo, internationally renowned expert of plant nutrition of the College of Resources and Environment Science and Dean of National Academy of Agriculture Green Development, China Agricultural University, will be awarded the World Agriculture Prize 2020 in a global ceremony to be held on December 1, 2020, transmitted virtually from Nanjing Agricultural University, the People's Republic of China.

With this award GCHERA (Global Confederation of Higher Education Associations for Agricultural and Life Sciences) recognizes Professor Zhang's exceptional and significant lifetime achievements in the field of agricultural and life sciences.

The academic discipline of Plant Nutrition in China was established at Beijing Agricultural University (now China Agricultural University) in 1992 by a group of scholars led by Professor Fusuo Zhang. It has aimed to combine the basic principles of plant nutrition with science-based fertilization and practical sciences, involving plant physiology, soil science, agronomy and nutrient management to achieve the main research objectives of efficient utilization of resources, achieving high yield and quality of crops, and environmental safety. Professor Zhang is a major contributor to the department of plant nutrition, the college of Resources and Environment in China, and has greatly promoted the development of this discipline in China and global plant nutrition research.

In 2018, Professor Zhang established the National Academy of Agricultural Green Development in China that built a multidisciplinary innovation platform, aiming to promote agricultural green development theories and methodology and support the national strategy of "green development and rural revitalization".

Dr. Maurice Moloney, Jury Chair of the 2020 GCHERA World Agriculture Prize stated "Professor Fusuo Zhang is the world's leading authority on plant nutrition. He has had a prodigious academic career, and his impact on agricultural practice globally has also been profound. His work has improved agricultural sustainability, soil health, food production and the effects of agriculture on environment sustainability and climate change. He has created a new generation of agricultural scientists in China and even improved the agri-food productivity of farmers worldwide".

Dr. Qixin Sun, President of China Agricultural University, states in his nomination letter that Dr. Zhang "has been committed to education and research related to plant nutrient and agriculture green development, featured by aiming to solve agricultural production problems for more than 30 years". "He has made innovative and systematic achievements in the field of rhizosphere nutrition, nutrient management technologies in agroecosystems and its application in regional agricultural development." "With respect to education, he has created an innovative postgraduate training model called Science and Technology Backyards (STBs) where students live and co-learn with farmers to tackle agricultural production problems."

Emeritus Professor Hans Lambers of the University of Western Australia says in his letter of support “What sets him apart from others in this eminent group, however, is his drive to work towards practical solutions for food security issues in China and elsewhere. His influence, therefore, reaches far beyond that of his scientific peers, and I firmly believe he has been instrumental in revolutionizing food production in China, and continues to do so, based on innovative plant nutrition research. He is using novel findings in plant mineral nutrition to enhance food production and food quality, while reducing the footprint on the environment and decreasing resource-use costs.”