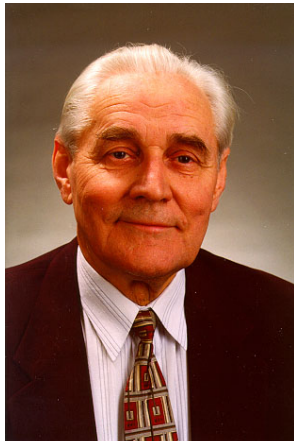


Anniversary

The 80th Birthday of Martins Bekers, Prof., D. Sc., Full Member of Latvian Academy of Sciences



Professor Martins Bekers was born on August 31, 1928, in Madona, Latvia. He graduated Latvia University of Agriculture in 1953, defended a Ph.D. thesis at Latvian Academy of Sciences in 1959 and Dr.Tech.Sc. thesis at Institute of Food Technology, Kiev, Ukraine in 1979.

Prof. Bekers has had more than 20 years experience in biotechnological and food industry, and especially in the area of industrial microbiology and biotechnology, yeast dehydration and anabiosis of microorganisms, biosynthesis of amino acids (lysin), methanofermentation, production leaf of protein, ethanol and levan production by *Zymomonas mobilis*, immobilization of cells, biofuel problems, probiotic bacteria – *Lactobacillus* and *Bifidobacterium*, prebiotics – inulin from *Jerusalem artichoke*, functional food. Prof. Bekers has participated in development of lysine concentrate technology and licensing of 5 inventions.

Prof. Bekers has been a full member of Latvian Academy of Sciences since 1978 and Latvian Academy of Agriculture and Forestry Sciences of Latvia since 1993. He is also a senator of University of Latvia and Latvian Academy of Sciences, chairmen of the Commission of State Emeritus Scientists. Prof. Bekers has been a head of Laboratory of Industrial Microbiology at Institute of Microbiology and Biotechnology, director of Institute of Microbiology and Biotechnology - University of Latvia, honorary doctor (Dr.h.c.) of Latvian University of Agriculture, member of Latvian Council of Science Expert Committee, member of Habilitation and Promotion Council Latvian University of Agriculture, member of six advisory boards etc.

Prof. Bekers is an author of 9 books, among them „Introduction in Biotechnology”, and up to 700 publications. He has been a supervisor of 10 Ph.D. students and has 45 years in students training as a professor in Faculty of Chemical Technology at Riga Technical University.

For his achievements prof. Bekers has been awarded with twelve awards.

Best wishes for health and further achievements!

Prof. Uldis Viesturs

Prof. Stoyan Tzonkov, D.Sc.

Chief Editor