

Toshiko Matano



On March 22, 2020, our dear friend and teacher Toshiko Matano, Professor Emeritus of Shinshu University, Nagano Prefecture, Japan, passed away at her home in Ina, Japan.

Toshiko Matano was in 1980 one of the founding members of the International Buckwheat Research Association (IBRA). For 40 years, since 1980, Prof. Matano was a member of the international board of IBRA, making significant contribution for the development of IBRA. Prof. Matano was one of emeritus editors of FAGOPYRUM journal. In 1995 she organised with Prof. Akio Ujihara the 6th International Symposium on Buckwheat in Ina, Shinshu University, and in the period 1995-1998 she served

as the Chair-person of IBRA. Among her contributions to the international buckwheat research community was the establishment of Buckwheat Gallery on www pages, and scanning of many important papers on buckwheat, including those presented at IBRA Symposia. Many of presentations scanned by T. Matano were all the time, and are even now, available on www pages, freely accessible for scientists and other interested people. There are many users of papers published in this way, but it is less

known that they were scanned and served to the international buckwheat community by Prof. Matano.

Prof. Matano made important steps for mutual understanding among scientists belonging to different nations, and continents, belonging to different agricultural and food traditions, practices and cultures. Prof. Matano was a person filled with love and compassion for the surrounding world and people, an outstanding scientist and teacher.

Toshiko Matano was born in Kyoto, Japan on May 4, 1932, she graduated at the Laboratory of Crop Science, Department of Agronomy, Faculty of Agriculture, Kyoto University and there received her PhD degree. She got job at the Shinshu University at Ina, located at Minami Minowa village, Nagano Prefecture. Under the supervision of Prof. Toshiko Matano, many students of Shinshu University obtained their university degrees of different levels. Prof. Matano was a principal investigator of many research projects on Modeling of expression mechanism of productivity of common buckwheat, Adaptability of Tartary buckwheat to environmental factors, Studies on

the historical relationship of agriculture between East and Southwest Asia – Agronomical and prehistorical analysis of natural and cultivated vegetation. She joined as well many other research projects. Prof. Matano studied Asian buckwheat noodles (soba) eating habits, as well in comparison to buckwheat groats (kasha, or kaša) dishes and culture in Slovenia, Czech Republic and Poland. On her research travels Prof. Matano visited among other countries as well South Korea, China, Afghanistan and Himalaya regions, Russia, Bosnia-Herzegovina, Croatia, many times Slovenia, and Italy, Czech Republic, Austria, Germany, Poland, Sweden, Finland, Canada, Australia and other countries. Among the significant publications of Prof. Toshiko Matano is a book on buckwheat (soba), in Japanese, with rich illustrations, for children, with co-author Eriko Hirano.

We will be missing very much the kind words, company, understanding and encouragements by Professor Emeritus Toshiko Matano.

Ivan Kreft