

Obituary

Lin Rufa
(1936-2022)



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Lin Rufa, an outstanding scientist on buckwheat, passed away on 23 February 2022. He lived on the age of 85 years. He was born on 1 October 1936 in Wenling City, Zhenjiang Province, China. He graduated from Department of Agronomy, Shanxi Agricultural University in 1958. After graduation, Lin Rufa was a researcher of Small Grains Research Center of Shanxi Academy of Agricultural Science, Shanxi Province, Taiyuan, and later the director of the Research Center. Many people respect Prof. Lin Rufa and say that a scientist from southern rich land became a pilot, excellent researcher in the northern lean land on small grains, focusing on buckwheat: breeding, improving breeding technology, securing grain with high quality. He made a remarked performance on Tartary buckwheat.

Lin Rufa organized and presided over three international conferences. Firstly, the 5th International Symposium on Buckwheat (5th ISB, Taiyuan, 1992) under auspices of the International Buckwheat Research Association (IBRA). Later, he served as the editorial member of the international scientific journal, *FAGOPYRUM*, published by IBRA. Secondly, the 1st International Conference of Asian Food Product Development: Focus on Specialty Grains and Grain Products (Taiyuan, 1998). Lastly, the International Forum on Tartary buckwheat Industry Economy (Taiyuan, 2006).

His major achievement refers to the following books. He was the editor-in-chief of the following scientific books: "Tartary Buckwheat", published by China Agricultural Science and Technology Press, Beijing (2013). He also published "Buckwheat in China", "Cultivation of Buckwheat", "Buckwheat Scientific Research Papers in China", "Minor Cereals in China", "Chinese Millet Varieties", "Barley", "Mung Bean", "Nutrition and Food Resources in Shanxi Province", "Black Wheat, Black Maize, Tartary Buckwheat", "Buckwheat, Food Crops of China's Crops and Wild Plants", "Buckwheat Germplasm Resources Description and Data Standards", "China's Buckwheat Situation", and more than 10 other works. Among his books, "Chinese Buckwheat" is the first monograph of buckwheat in China, which plays an important guiding role in the scientific research of buckwheat and the development of buckwheat products.

He has won ten international and provincial science and technology progress awards to reach the world's leading level in Tartary buckwheat utilization achievement. In 2007, he won the award for outstanding scientists contributing to buckwheat research, production, and business in the world in the 10th International Buck-

wheat Research Association. In 2011, he won the Science and Technology Innovation Award of China Institute of Food Science and Technology.

With the 5th ISB as a trigger, he was the leader of the cooperative group of national buckwheat breeding, cultivation and development and utilization of the Ministry of Agriculture, the leader of the national edible bean cooperative group of the Ministry of Agriculture.

Lin Rufa led the Chinese buckwheat community to go abroad the world. He established cooperative relations with various countries such as Slovenia, Japan, and actively carried out exchanges and visits, introducing Chinese buckwheat production, scientific research, health care function, traditional food to the world, enhancing the international influence of China's buckwheat research and application. He is the main promoter of China's buckwheat to the world, so that China becomes one of the world's buckwheat research center.

"National buckwheat varieties regional test" proposed by Lin Rufa in the Buckwheat Varieties Resources Cooperation Conference in 1983 persisted for nearly 40 years. Many, excellent buckwheat varieties have been screened and identified since this conference. The national buckwheat variety test cooperation group not only grew up breeding, cultivation, product development, but also fostered China buckwheat research team to an excellent level.

Lin Rufa with Tao Yongru co-founded and edited "Buckwheat Dynamics". From the trial issue in 1984 to the second issue in 2000, 33 volumes were successively issued. "Buckwheat Dynamics" is a special journal on buckwheat in China. Its publication has promoted academic exchange for studies on buckwheat in China.

He has developed many new products such as tea, and vinegar from Tartary buckwheat based on fusion from primary to the tertiary industry in Shanxi Province. On December 2021, he, Chai Yan, and some Chinese buckwheat researchers had a meeting, and they were planned to build buckwheat museum. The above photograph is one of Lin Rufa with 85 years old at the meeting.

We remember that we had many nice times with Prof. Lin Rufa and Prof. Ivan Kreft. These times are a lot of nice memories. Lin Rufa was indeed a great scientist on buckwheat. We sincerely pray for the soul of Lin Rufa!

While writing at the end, we are thankful for making the obituary to Ms. Liu Sha and Mr. Wei Wen who were much indebted to Prof. Lin Rufa.