In Meroriam Dr Lute Bos (1928–2010)

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Tuesday July 6, 2010 we were shocked by the news that that day our former colleague Lute Bos had died unexpectedly at the age of 82.

Lute was a world-famous plant virologist. From the start of his career in 1957 until his retirement from the Institute for Plant Protection (IPO-DLO) in Wageningen in 1993, he studied plant viruses and in particular those of legumes and vegetable crops.

Lute was born on March 22, 1928 as the son of a Frysian farmer. This likely prompted him to study plant pathology at the Landbouwhogeschool in Wageningen where he specialized in plant virology. When he finished his studies he started teaching at the Landbouwhogeschool where in 1957 he obtained his PhD on systemic witches' broom phenomena in plants. That year Lute was appointed a plant

virologist at the former DLO Research Institute for Plant Protection (IPO-DLO) in Wageningen.

Lute was deeply involved in his work and a strong advocate of international cooperation. Many international scientists visited Lute at IPO-DLO to jointly investigate new plant viruses. He was one of the founders of the International Working Group of Legume Viruses and the International Working Group of Vegetable Viruses. His research and broad interest resulted in over 300 scientific publications and four books among which '*Symptoms of virus diseases in plants*' and '*Introduction to Plant Virology*', which are regarded world wide as standard plant virology text books.

Within the Royal Dutch Society for Plant Pathology he was involved as a board member and treasurer and as the editor of the Netherlands Journal of Plant Pathology (1968–1977). Until his death Lute was actively involved in the committee on Terminology which was responsible for the list with correct Dutch names for plant diseases and plant pathology terms. His deep interest in this matter is reflected by the fact that he was a member of this committee for over 40 years.

Plant viruses were his life and also after his retirement in 1993 Lute stayed actively involved in plant virology. In 1999, 6 years after his retirement he published his last book; '*Plant viruses, unique and intriguing pathogens*'. The title reflects his fascination with plant viruses, which after a life-long study still held many mysteries. Until his death he regularly visited the institute (now Plant Research International) for information from the extensive plant virological archive he left to us or simply for a chat. He kept a keen and critical but always inspiring interest in the plant virology research at PRI. His broad knowledge and years of experience were still nationally and internationally highly regarded.

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Lute was invited as a special guest to the Plant Virology meeting of the European Association for Potato Research in Hamar, Norway in July 2010 where he delivered an inspiring talk on potato viruses and their history. The next day, 6-July 2010, he presented a second talk on potatoes and phytoplasma diseases of potatoes.

Sadly, just before the end of this talk he suffered a fatal heart attack.

Lute will be missed by many. Not only as a plant virologist but also as an erudite man with an inspiring passion for plant virology. Our thoughts go out to his wife and son and daughter he leaves behind.