



IN MEMORIUM – Dr. Jacky Ganry, 1946-2013

It is with deep sadness that we must report the death of Jacky Ganry, on 4 February, at St Gely du Fesc, France.

Jacky was a very special person within the family of horticultural scientists. While a man of Europe, his research career focussed on tropical and subtropical horticulture and was often conducted in the tropics. His successes as a researcher were largely with banana, for which he and his colleagues at CIRAD laid the groundwork for integrated pest management, the development of protocols for determining optimum harvest maturity, and perhaps most importantly, assembled the plant materials, techniques and protocols needed for modern banana breeding. This pioneering work with banana must be viewed within the context that banana and plantains combined account for more than 100 million tons of production annually, making them among the most important of the world's food crops. Jacky commenced his scientific career as a plant ecophysiologicalist working in Guadeloupe with CIRAD's Institute for Fruit and Citrus during the 1970's and early 80's. It is here that he achieved a major success in the forecasting and management of Sigatoka diseases of banana that remains in use across Africa and the Caribbean. In 1983 he returned to France to head up the Banana Program for CIRAD-IRFA at Montpellier where he, together with colleagues around the world, developed the multidimensional approach to the genetic improvement of banana that is used today to produce banana hybrids. During this period Jacky was deeply involved with the conceptualization and 1986 launch of the International Network for Improvement of Banana and Plantain (INIBAP) and later of CARBAP for Central Africa. These initiatives, and the eventual development and launch of ProMusa, considered to be the first truly global program in agricultural research, are evidence of Jacky's vision of a world where horticulture has a key role to play in improving the lives of smallholder farmers. When remembering Jacky it is important to note that it was an alliance between ISHS and ProMusa that led to the formation of the ISHS Section on Banana and Plantain in 2006.

When CIRAD established the Department for Fruits, Vegetables and other Horticultural Crops in 1993 (CIRAD-FLHOR), Jacky became the Deputy Director for Research, a position that he held for more than 13 years. With each assignment, Jacky became more engaged with international development at the level of determining policies and research priorities that would have the greatest impact on reducing poverty and improving health and nutrition across the developing world. Thus, in 2007 he was appointed CIRAD's Officer for International Cooperation in Horticultural Science and after that (2010) Senior Officer in the Directorate for European and International Relations.

Jacky took a special interest in the CIRAD-FHLOR journal *Fruits* and served as Scientific Director from 1998 until his death. He had deep affection and great ambitions for this journal that has proved especially important to researchers working on tropical and subtropical fruits around the world. He was very pleased when *Fruits* was recognized by ISHS as a journal of special value to international horticultural science. In his last Editorial, appearing in the February issue, Jacky reflected positively on a recent UN report on the *State of Food Insecurity in the World* that documented the increasing production and consumption of fruits and vegetables relative to some key staple crops in many parts of the world, a trend deemed to be related to increasing recognition of the health benefits that come from a more balanced diet. Always an optimist, Jacky viewed this reference to horticulture in a focal UN report as a

sign of an “emerging awareness (by) the international community of the need to integrate (horticulture) in the global food security agenda. . .”

As a member and strong contributor to ISHS since 1994, Jacky Ganry served as a Council Member for France, contributed to scores of ISHS symposia over several decades, and was on the ISHS Executive Committee as Chair of the Section on Tropical and Subtropical Fruits from 2006 to 2010. In 1996 he was asked by the ISHS Council to craft an overview of horticultural research worldwide. This paper was presented at the ISHS-ASHS World Conference on Horticultural Research in Rome in 1998. It called attention to the dearth of R&D on horticultural crops in developing countries and urged ISHS to address this global challenge. ISHS President Silviero Sansavini asked Jacky to head up a Committee for Research Cooperation that ultimately evolved into a high level panel of international development experts that advised the ISHS President and Board in the years leading up to the establishment of the Global Horticulture Initiative (GlobalHort) in 2006.

GlobalHort was strongly supported in its earliest days by CIRAD, ISHS and the World Vegetable Center (AVRDC) and was formally launched by these partners at Montpellier in 2006. Jacky and other leaders and decision makers at CIRAD have provided strong support for GlobalHort since its inception but it was Jacky who emerged as a spiritual leader of this Initiative. He will be profoundly missed by the GlobalHort team.

As was expected, the news of Jacky’s death resulted in an avalanche of messages to the ISHS Secretariat expressing sorrow and sympathy but also admiration and appreciation for his service to horticultural science. To those of us who were privileged to know Jacky well, it will be his energy, enthusiasm, curiosity, and deep love for horticulture that will be most cherished.

Jacky was a good friend who enjoyed a lengthy conversation - opportunities to sail away from horticulture and to appreciate his great culture, broad field of interests and fine sense of humour While a man of diminutive stature, Jacky will forever stand tall as a model for productive and unselfish service to our profession.

Norman Looney, Past President of ISHS and Board Chair of GlobalHort
António Monteiro, ISHS President