

# Konstantinos Bloukidis



**A dedicated crop protection scientist always promoting knowledge, a true teacher**

Born in Limni Evias in January 1944. His father originated from Asia Minor, while his mother was a native of Limni. During his school year he was a very diligent student, and he graduated from the high school of Chalkida (Gymnasium with 6 grades at that time). Thereafter, his successive main step was the Agricultural University of Athens (then Highest Agricultural School of Athens)

In 1972 he entered the crop protection industry, joining the team of Bayer in Greece, at that time called Bayer Epipha AG, as a sales representative. Very soon his special skills for research and innovation development became evident, so he was sent by

the company to the Bolzano Research station in northern Italy, where he stayed for training in development trials and he became familiar with the organization and management of a development trials and research station. Those years were rich in innovation on synthetic crop protection substances, especially insecticides and fungicides.

Returning to Greece he started to organize the local trials unit and actively participated in Bayer agronomic development meetings abroad. So, leading the trials operations in Greece he has been an important contributor to the development of all major Bayer crop protection active substances and products up to his retirement, where insecticides constituted a significant part. Aphids, white flies, spider mites, different species of moths, leaf miners, olive fruit fly as well as other fruit flies had no secrets to him and his eye for the detail. Being an extremely active personality and a dedicated scientist, he was able to participate to all scientific conferences in Greece related to agronomy and crop protection especially. He has been a much engaged and active member in the Hellenic Entomological Society since very early in his professional career and has participated in the congresses many times presenting papers himself. His skills, deep knowledge, dedication, persistence and determination have been acknowledged and highly valued not only within Bayer but also in the external academic environment across Greece.

One of his characteristics and most important indeed, was the fact that he did not keep knowledge for himself but was actively looking to share it and train younger colleagues on the field or in the laboratory in the Bayer Hellas GEP trials station, but also farmers in their fields. Due to his deep understanding of agronomy, crop protection techniques and insect/fungi cycles he was always able to explain almost any situation in simple words and provide valid advice and solutions. Personally, I have been collaborating and learning from Kostas since 1990 until his retirement, visiting trials, discussing solutions in the office or outside with farmers but also with agronomists across Greece, and of course participating in product development meetings mainly in Monheim in Germany with colleagues from all over the world. Besides his deep knowledge and skills, I highly respected Kostas for his modesty and integrity, as well as strong human values, which guided him through all his life.

Being a father of 2 sons himself, he believed strongly in the potential of the younger generation and spent voluntarily time on mentorship of younger colleagues within the company.

He retired from Bayer Hellas in 2005 after a dedicated professional career in Research and Development Sector of over 30 years.

To conclude, I consider Kostas Bloukidis as a dedicated scientist, a great colleague and a true teacher, an exceptional personality of high human values, modesty and outmost integrity.

He is survived by his beloved wife Dimitra, two sons, George and Alkis and one granddaughter.

Katerina Achimastou