

## Dr. Jin to Direct PPI/PPIC China Program Following Retirement of Dr. Sam Portch

Dr. Sam Portch has retired from his responsibility as PPIC Vice President, China and India Programs. Dr. Ji-yun Jin, who served as Deputy Director of the China Program (based in Beijing) since 1990, was appointed Director in late 2002 and will continue to coordinate the agronomic research and education efforts of other staff in China.

Dr. David Dibb, PPI President, acknowledged numerous major accomplishments related to the work of Dr. Portch and his staff. “We are truly proud to be a part of the tremendous achievements in agronomic understanding in China. Sam Portch has a rare talent for building bridges of cooperation. He brought a sense of dedication to progress through knowledge during his tenure with the Institute.”

A native of Ontario, Canada, Dr. Portch earned his B.Sc. and M.Sc. degrees from McGill University in Montreal and his Ph.D. at the University of Arkansas. During his long career in international agriculture, Dr. Portch had experience in more than 35 countries. He and his wife, Dorothy, have moved from Hong Kong and plan to spend part of their time in Ontario, while also visiting other parts of the world.

Dr. Jin was born in Henan Province of China and received his B.S. degree from Jilin Agricultural University in 1977. After earning his M.S. at the Chinese Academy of Agricultural Sciences (CAAS), he continued his studies at Virginia Tech and completed his Ph.D. in 1985. His research work on potassium (K) with soils of northern China found significant yield responses and helped change the traditional belief that many of the soils did not need K.

His leadership in fertilization studies, soil testing, and balanced fertilization practices are well known and widely respected. He has been a council member of the Soil Science Society of China and the Chinese Society of Plant Nutrition and Fertilizer Sciences for several years, and has been honored for many professional achievements.

“We are fortunate to have a scientist of Dr. Jin’s stature to continue in a leadership role with the PPI/PPIC China Program. Many opportunities still exist and we are confident of continued success in agronomic programs there,” Dr. Dibb emphasized. **BCI**



Dr. Portch



Dr. Jin

*A Systematic Approach to Soil Fertility Evaluation and Improvement*, a new publication authored by Dr. Sam Portch and Dr. Arvel Hunter, is now available. For more information, contact the PPI/PPIC China Program office in Beijing (e-mail: [jjjin@ppi-ppic.org](mailto:jjjin@ppi-ppic.org)) or the PPI/PPIC International Program office in Saskatoon, SK, Canada (e-mail: [ppic@ppi-ppic.org](mailto:ppic@ppi-ppic.org); phone 306-652-3535).