

Robert E. Wagner Award Recipients Announced

Two outstanding agronomic scientists have been selected to receive the 1998-99 Robert E. Wagner Award by the Potash & Phosphate Institute (PPI). The Award encourages worldwide candidate nominations and has two categories...Senior Scientist and Young Scientist, under the age of 40. The recipient in each category receives \$5,000 along with the award.

Prof. Zhu Zhonglin, President, Sichuan Academy of Agricultural Sciences in Chengdu, China, was selected in the Senior Scientist category. **Dr. Achim Dobermann**, Soil Nutrient Specialist, International Rice Research Institute (IRRI) in The Philippines, receives the honor in the Young Scientist division.

The Robert E. Wagner Award recognizes distinguished contributions to advanced crop yields through maximum yield research (MYR) and maximum economic yield (MEY) management. The Award honors Dr. Wagner, President (Retired) of PPI, for his many achievements and in recognition of his development of the MEY management concept...for profitable, efficient agriculture.

Prof. Zhu is an internationally recognized soil scientist and has been engaged in research, demonstration and extension of a broad spectrum of soil science and fertilizer use activities in Sichuan province. Her studies on potassium (K) fertilizer use efficiency and balanced fertilization in south China showed that the lack of K was the major yield-limiting factor in agricultural production for the region. She was also involved in introduction of compound fertilizers...containing nitrogen (N), phosphorus (P), and K...which promoted balanced fertilizer use. This has played an important role in Sichuan's food production and improving farmer incomes.

Prof. Zhu edited the book titled *Compound Fertilizer Production and Application*. She has presented numerous scientific papers, addressed important international meetings, and received previous honors in recognition of her achievements. More recently, Prof. Zhu has been studying the relationship between soil erosion and plant nutrient loss from sloping lands in Sichuan. Soil and water conservation combined with balanced fertilization is crucial to this area in assuring high crop yields and profitable farming.

Dr. Dobermann is widely recognized for his scientific accomplishments in the area of soil fertility and integrated nutrient management. Since 1996, he has served as Soil Nutrient Specialist and Project Team Leader with IRRI, based in Manila, The Philippines.

His outstanding publication record in major international journals documents important contributions to basic understanding of soil nutrient dynamics in relation to plant availability and uptake and the use of geospatial statistical approaches to improve prediction of crop nutrient requirements.

Dr. Dobermann is leader of a major research project that seeks to quantify nutrient limitations and fertilizer requirements for irrigated rice on a dynamic, site-specific basis. The project involves extensive on-farm experimentation and active collaboration with about 40 scientists and 200 rice farmers from six Asian countries. One objective is development of a decision-support expert system to allow field-specific nutrient management recommendations that are more precise and profitable. He also led a major course for "training the trainers" which provides current information to rice researchers and extension workers in developing countries of Asia. 

