

György FILEP

(1932–2003)

György Filep left behind a monumental life-work, unforgettable memories, close collegial and friendly relationships. His pretentiousness, accuracy, precision, professional substantiality and diligence; his consciousness, morality and ethical purity are exemplary. These have made him a reputation as an internationally well-known and recognized soil chemist.



Prof. György Filep was born on 29 May, 1932 in Császló (Hungary). He graduated from the Faculty of Natural Sciences of the Kossuth Lajos University (Debrecen) with a diploma in chemistry and physics in 1954. Later he obtained an diploma in analytical chemistry at the Faculty of Chemical Engineering of the Budapest Technical University.

From 1954 to 1962 he worked in Debrecen in the Soil Science Department of the National Institute for Agricultural Quality Testing (between 1970 and 1973 he was Head of the Department), and between 1963 and 1969 in Nyíregyháza in the Central Laboratory of the Nyírség Agricultural Research Institute. He was lecturer (from 1974), professor (1981), Head of Department (up to 1997) and later emeritus research professor of the Soil Science and Microbiology Department of the Debrecen Agricultural University.

His main research topics are as follows: description of soil chemical equilibriums and transport processes in soils; development of the scientific basis of soil degradation–soil amelioration; study of the interrelationships between soil and environmental factors. His internationally esteemed new research results were obtained in the following fields: thermodynamic evaluation and quantitative characterization of the dynamism of ion exchange processes in soils and the related energy changes; development of the „colloid model” of surface reactions between the solid and liquid phase of soil; further development of chemical characteristics of salt-affected soils (salt content, ESP, SAR, sodicity index); elaboration of a comprehensive irrigation water evaluation system; contemporary evaluation of the mechanism of soil acidification processes and the buffer capacity of soil, and the elaboration of a calculation procedure for determining lime dose requirement; formulation of a simple model for the estimation of the fixation of pollutants and the leaching risk.

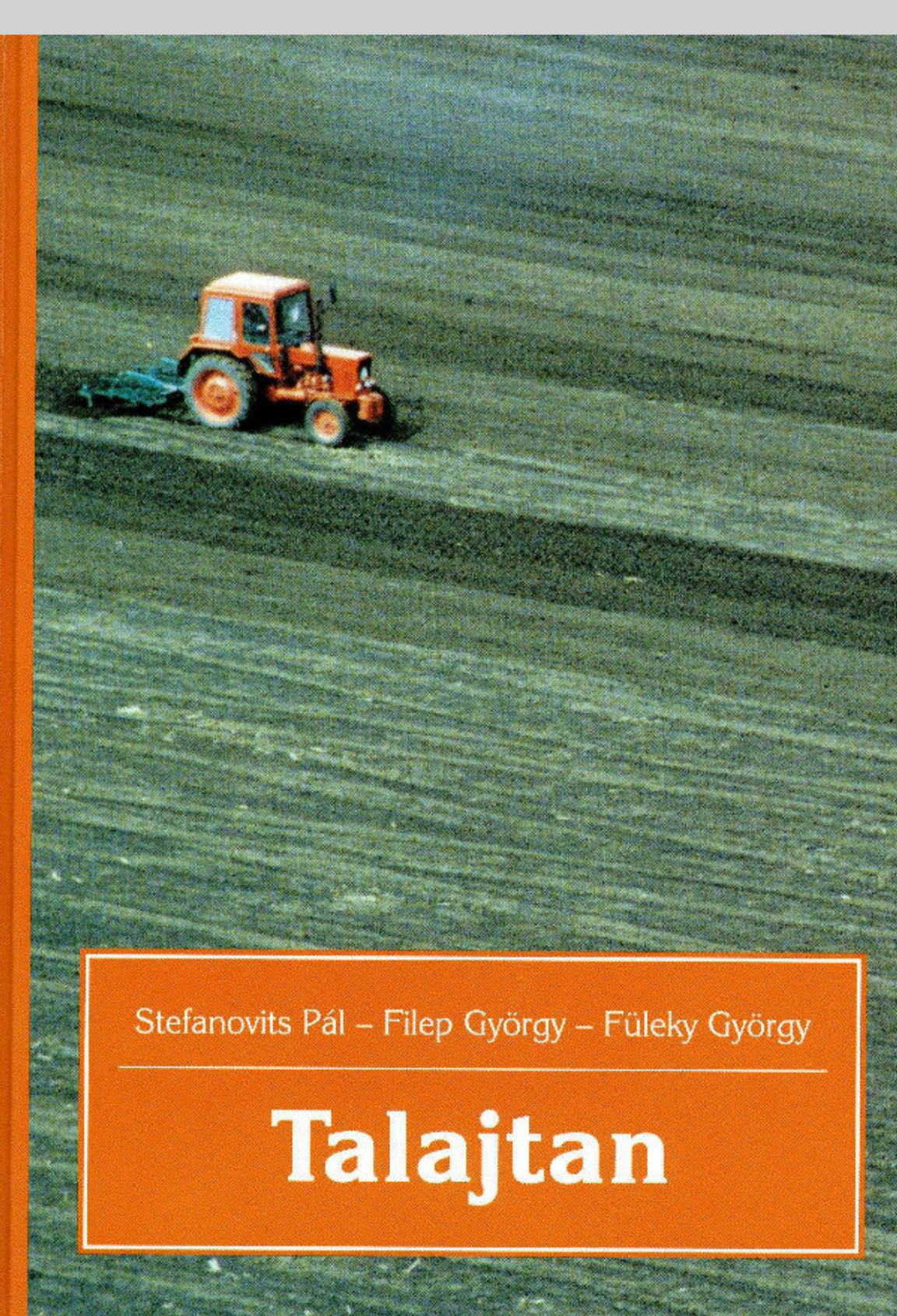
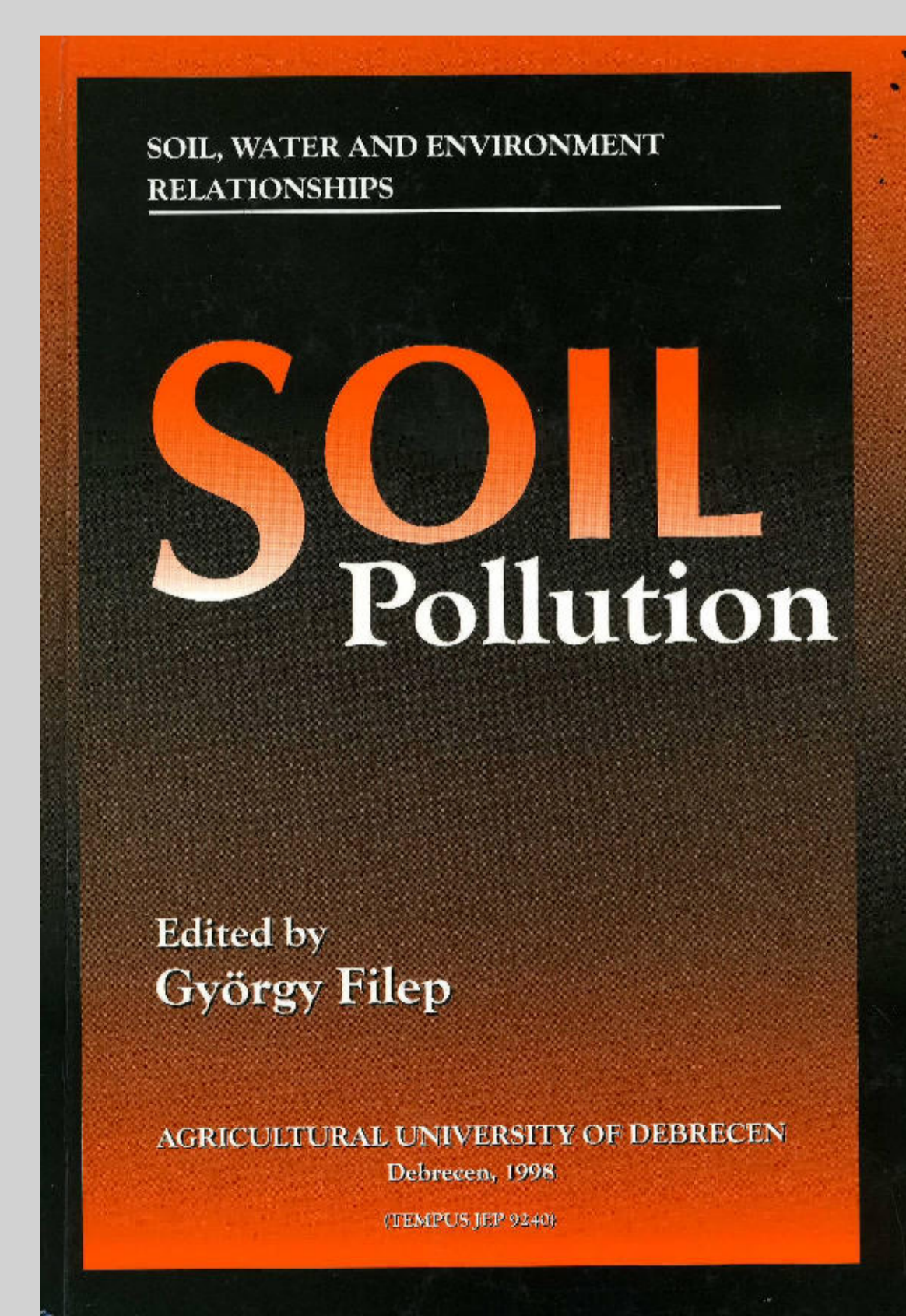
He initiated theoretical researches for the study of soil–micropollutant relationships. He developed a number of new procedures and evaluation methods, among these: precision of the Sephadex-gel chromatographic fractionation of humus extracts and the characterization and measurement of the different humus fractions; rapid determination of the potentially mineralizable N reserve of soil; development of the methodology of soil column experiments for the study of leaching processes and ion exchange; new evaluation method for the characterization of the buffer capacity of soil.

He received the Doctor of Sciences (DSc) degree in 1980 on the basis of his thesis entitled „Study of the cation exchange and salt leaching in soils”. In 1999 he was nominated for the Correspondent Membership of the Hungarian Academy of Sciences.

His books („Talajkémia”, „Soil Chemistry. Processes and Constituents”) are the basic works in the field of soil chemistry. He was co-author of the book „Talajtan” (Soil Science) with Pál Stefanovits and György Füleky. In addition to these he published his research results in 5 university lecture notes, 9 book chapters and 150 scientific papers. He was the Editor of the Seminar proceedings: „Land Use and Soil Management”, 1997; and „Soil Pollution”, 1998.



On the occasion of his candidteship for Academy membership (on the left side of the photo)



Edited books by György Filep

His character was that of a typical professor. He enthusiastically engaged himself in various specialized university educations on different levels. He held lectures for hundreds of students on modern soil science, agrochemistry, land use, soil amelioration and soil conservation. He was the supervisor of numerous diploma dissertations, university doctor, CSc and PhD theses. He was an outstanding creator and coordinator of the modern Hungarian scientific school of soil chemistry.

He played an important role for decades in the scientific life of Hungary. He was member (from 1975), vice president (from 1994) of the Soil Science and Agrochemistry Committee of the Hungarian Academy of Sciences, and acted as Doctor representative in the Section of Agricultural Sciences of the Hungarian Academy of Sciences from 1994 to 2000. He undertook many tasks and positions in the Regional Committee of the Hungarian Academy of Sciences in Debrecen. He took active part in the activities of the Doctor Council, Scientific Council and Habilitation Council of the Debrecen University of Agricultural Sciences, and later in the Centre for Agricultural Sciences of the Debrecen University. He was member of the Presidium of the Hungarian Soil Science Society, member of the International Union of Soil Sciences (IUSS), the International Soil Tillage Organization (ISTRO), the European Society of Agronomy (ESA) and the Hungarian National Committee of the International Humic Substances Society (IHSS).

He was member of the Editorial Board of the journal „Agrokémia és Talajtan” (Agrochemistry and Soil Science) as a high-standard author, reviewer and conceptual colleague.

For his education and research achievements he received many awards, among others, the „Arany Sándor Prize” in 1995, the Széchenyi Professor Grant in 1998, Darányi Ignác Prize in 2001, Treitz Medal in 2002.

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