

**RETIREMENT OF  
DR. KAMAL M. EL-ZIK**

Kamal M. El-Zik, professor emeritus of the Department of Soil and Crop Sciences, Texas A&M University, retired January 31, 2002. Dr. El-Zik earned his B. Sc. from Alexandria University in 1952, and his M.S. degree in Genetics from Alexandria University in 1960. He later attended Texas A&M University where he completed his Ph.D. degree in Plant Pathology in 1967. For the past 38 years, he has been recognized as an accomplished national and international leader in the areas of cotton breeding, genetics, host-plant resistance and integrating biotechnology and crop improvement.

Dr. El-Zik began his career as plant breeder and geneticist with Lockett Seed Company in Vernon, Texas. In 1971, he became Vice President of Research and Plant Breeder. While he was at Lockett, he developed and released four cotton cultivars bearing inherent multiple disease and insect resistance in addition to high yield potential, earliness, and improved fiber quality.

In 1975, Dr. El-Zik moved to California and became Agronomist-Extension Cotton Specialist at the University of California, Davis. While in California, he initiated, established, and directed a coordinated cotton research program on integrated cotton management and production systems (irrigation, fertilization, harvest aids, pest control). He pioneered research and implementation of 30-inch row spacing and the short season cotton production system. Dr. El-Zik developed a computer plant growth model for the "Acala" cultivars based on degree-days, and co-developed a cotton slide rule.

Dr. El-Zik joined the Multi-Adversity Resistance (MAR) Cotton Improvement Program at Texas A&M University in 1980 and became project leader in 1986. He developed basic concepts, procedures and techniques for screening germplasm and developing cotton cultivars with multiple diseases and insect resistance, and resistance to abiotic stresses. He has been a member of the Cotton Disease Council for the past 25 years and Chairman of the Photographic Committee. Dr. El-Zik co-developed and released 67 elite cotton lines and 7 Tamcot varieties to the industry. He directed and advised 20 Ph.D. graduate students and trained 32 international scientists from 14 countries. He authored 244 research publications, 16 book chapters, 38 popular articles and is co-editor of one book. He has participated in many significant, international technical assignments. He has received numerous awards for his contributions to science and the cotton industry including the Miles Cotton Recognition Award and the Cotton Genetics Award in 1993, and Texas Seed Trade Association Distinguished Service Award in 2001.

Dr. El-Zik and his wife, Daphne, are currently living in Laguna Niguel, California.