



Dr. Joachim Kramer. Photo: IAEA/Voithl Dr. Paul Wassermann. Photo: IAEA/Voithl

agency doctorates

Staff members of the Agency working at the Seibersdorf laboratory are continuing to achieve high academic distinction.

Two more — both Austrian — have now been awarded the degree of Doctor of Agriculture.

Joachim Kramer, who is 26, graduated from the Hochschule für Bodenkultur in 1967 with the degree of Diplom-Ingenieur and then started work in the plant breeding and genetics section of the laboratory under the direction of Dr. Knut Mikaelson. The results of the research work he carried out were accepted as the subject of a thesis for which he has now been granted his doctorate. The doctoral promotion took place on 30 June, at a ceremony attended by Dr. André Finkelstein, Deputy Director General for Research and Isotopes.

The subject of Dr. Kramer's thesis was a comprehensive study of the mutagenic effects of fast neutrons and gamma rays, and the influence of various modifying factors such as water content, oxygen and metabolic state of seeds at the time of irradiation. This work has contributed significantly to the understanding of the mechanisms by which these two types of ionizing radiation produce mutations in seeds. The knowledge gained will be of great importance in the efficient use of ionizing radiation in practical plant breeding.

Paul Wassermann, who is 33 years old, joined the Agency in 1965. He, too, graduated from the Hochschule für Bodenkultur as Diplom-Ingenieur in agriculture, having graduated with honours previously from the agricultural secondary school at Raumberg, Austria, in 1958.

Dr. Wassermann's own words may be used to explain how he came to gain his doctorate. "In October, 1966, I completed my studies at the Hochschule," he writes. "I was employed at the Agency laboratories in Seibersdorf, working in the plant and soils group. Encouraged by the interesting research which was performed there, a thesis entitled 'the Fate of Nitrogen in Submerged Rice Soils' was started, which finally led to the doctor's degree in Agriculture in June this year.

"The subject of this thesis is regarded as an economically important contribution to the problem of rice fertilization... Since rice is considered as the main grain crop in the world for human diet, developing countries in particular will gain from the achievements of these studies."

news from headquarters



Mr. Lopez-Menchero Ordonez

The Director General has announced the appointment of a new Director for the Division of Development, of the Department of Safeguards and Inspection.

He is Mr. Emilio Manuel Lopez-Menchero Ordonez, 38, of Spain, who succeeds Mr. Shigefumi Tamiya. Mr. Lopez-Menchero Ordonez joined the Spanish Junta de Energia Nuclear in Madrid in 1956, and was seconded to Eurochemic to work at Mol, in Belgium, in 1959. In 1961 he was appointed head of the Physical Chemistry Section of the research department of that organization, and he was then successively head of its Process Development Division and head of its Industrial Development Division. Since last year he has been scientific advisor to the Director General of Eurochemic. Mr. Lopez-Menchero Ordonez is to take up his appointment with the Agency on 1 September.

Mr. Tamiya is to return to his home country, Japan.