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Paper title:

Ukrainian women-scientists in biotechnological research

Non-governmental organization “Women in Science”, Kyiv, Ukraine

For the recent decade our organization conducts statistical investigations of gender relationships in Ukrainian science. It was found that number of women receiving scientific degree of candidate of sciences (corresponding to PhD) in biotechnological research has sufficiently increased since 2000 and varies from 45.5% (2003) to 73% (2006). This correlates with general trend towards augmentation of number of women-scientists. For example, in 2003 their number in all science branches averaged 51-54%, reaching 67% in biological sciences. Considering our data about 51-53% of women among Ukrainian higher schools graduates during past decade, one can conclude about essentially high realization of their educational potential in science at the level of the first scientific degree. At the same time it is noticeably that women obtain this degree being of younger age in comparison with men. In 2005 women possessed 83% among receiving PhD degree at the age under 30.

High activity is shown by women-biotechnologists also in receiving the second scientific degree – Doctor of sciences. Their averaged number over last six years consists 71.4%, at the same time – 58% in biological sciences. Meanwhile in all scientific branches this index varies within 24-29%, and shows a two-fold increase over the last decade.

Unfortunately these improvements in women’s scientific career are not resulting from wise gender policy in our science, being rather predetermined by science financing decrease and “men drain” from presently low-paid scientific work. Although The Law about gender equality acts in Ukraine since 2006 many scientists and women also had never thought about gender issues as a problem. Significant vertical segregation in woman-scientist’s status takes place in both academic and university science. For example, about 83% of women are engaged in Ukrainian education, occupying only 3% of leading positions in higher schools and universities. There are only about 5% of women among members of National Academy of Sciences.

We believe that presented results evidence women-scientists’ ability to develop new scientific lines like biotechnology and to combine professional activity and private life. But we should be more active in overcoming negative tendencies in our science as well as actively participate at all levels of decision-making process in scientific policy. We are going to present an action program of our organization directed on consolidation of women-scientists’ position in biotechnological research.

Biographies

Name and first name: **Taran Nataliya**

Place and date of birth: **Ukraine, Kyiv, 16.12.1954**

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Titles, functions, honors and awards: **Dr. Biol. Science (2001), Ph.D. (1987), Senior Research Staff (1994).**

Laureate of the Yaroslav Mudryi (Wise) Award (1995) for the cycle of works on the problem of exogenous induction of plant resistance to unfavorable environment factors.

Laureate of the M.G. Holodnyi Award (1999) for the cycle of works on the problem of the investigation of the plant adaptative syndrome while stress factor action on agro- and phytochenoses.

***Areas of interest:* Plant resistance to unfavorable environment factories**

***Membership of Scientific societies:* Federation of European Societies of Plant Biology(FESPB); All-Ukrainian Plant Biologist Society; Ukrainian Society of Plant Physiologists; Non government organization “Women in science».**

***Name and first name:* Troian Vira**

***Place and date of birth:* Ukraine, Ternopil region, 01.09.1940**

***Institution:* National University of “Kyiv-Mohyla Academy”**

Titles, functions, honors and awards:

Ph.D. (1966);

Doctor Biol. Science (1989);

Expert of Supreme Attestation Commission of Ukraine;

Professor of the University of “Kyiv-Mohyla Academy”

Laureate of the Ukrainian Society of Inventors (1985)

Laureate of the National Academy of Sciences of Ukraine M.G. Kholodny Award (2001)

Membership of Scientific societies:

European Plant Physiology Society (1992-1995);

All-Ukrainian Plant Biologist Society;

Ukrainian Society of Plant Physiologists;

Head of NGO “Women in Science”, 1996 - current

Areas of interest:

--Mechanisms of plant cell proliferation during growth, development and under influence of stress factors;

--Women’s role in the development of science: historical and modern aspects.

Activity: foundation of the non-governmental organization “Women in Science” (1996), organization of three International Conferences "Woman in science and Education: Past, Present, Future" (1999, 2002, 2005), seminars “Gender Studies and Science Education”, publication the books “Women-scientists of Kyiv”(2003), “Ukrainian women in history”(2004); brochures “Women and Science in Ukraine”, “The role of woman in science”, “Advices to Leaders”, “Gender in the Science”, calendars “Women personalities in Ukrainian science” (2002, 2003, 2004), TV-programs, papers etc.