Fertiberia celebrates its 19th prize for the best agricultural doctoral thesis

On Friday, July 27th, Fertiberia **celebrated the XIX edition of its** Prize for the Best Doctoral Thesis on Agricultural Issues**, in an event held at the headquarters of the** Ministry of Agriculture and Fisheries, Food and Enviroment **and chaired by the Minister, Isabel García Tejerina. This award has been consolidated since its inception as one of the most prestigious in Europe and the best endowed economically. This year has highlighted the great number of papers presented, 32 theses from Spain and Portugal, as well as the scientific quality of the same.**

The Jury chaired by the Dean of the Official College of Agricultural Engineers of the Center and Canaries, Mª Cruz Díaz unanimously decided to award the Prize to Dr. Luis Rivacoba for his Doctoral Thesis titled "Evaluation of nitrogen measurements in plant for use as a system of recommendation of nitrogen fertilizer in the cultivation of cauliflower ", presented at the University of La Rioja under the direction of Dr. Alfonso Pardo Iglesias.

> The winning work focuses on the study of the effect of available nitrogen on the production and efficiency in the use of nitrogen in cauliflower

It evaluates the measurement of nitrate concentration in sap and the use of sensors based on the principles of reflectance, fluorescence and transmittance, to determine its efficiency in the determination of the possible nitrogen deficit and to be able to correct it.

It was also decided to award a thesis entitled: "Biochemistry of phosphorus in the soil: optimization of criteria for an efficient and environmentally acceptable agronomic use of a non-renewable resource", performed by Dr. Ramiro Recena of the University of Seville, and directed by Dr. Antonio Delgado.

The work is dedicated to the determination of the phosphorus adsorbed by the crops and the total phosphorus available in the soil for the crop, with the highest possible accuracy through testing of different, traditional and very novel methods. *The purpose is to maximize the available phosphorus in order to adjust fertilization.*

Fertiberia's president, Javier Goñi del Cacho, emphasized Fertiberia's long history in contributing to the growth and development of the Spanish agricultural world, with which this Group is absolutely committed, contributing every day to its greater efficiency, profitability and respect with the environment. To this end, it offers the farmer, in addition to the most advanced and efficient fertilizers, comprehensive agronomic advice based on the knowledge acquired after years of permanent investment in research.

The Dean of the Official College of Agricultural Engineers of the Center and the Canaries, María Cruz Díaz Álvarez, *emphasized the potential to apply the results of both works to agriculture and affected the enormous field work carried out by these two researchers .*

> The Minister of Agriculture, Food and Environment underlined the work of the two winners whose work is aimed at promoting the economic, social and environmental sustainability of agriculture and the rational and responsible use of fertilizers

During her speech, the minister congratulated Fertiberia for an initiative that promotes research in this field and affected the challenge posed to current agriculture by the need to increase production while minimizing the effects on the environment. With regard to fertilization, she stressed the need to increase efficiency and efficiency in the use of fertilizers; a challenge that counts with the valuable contribution of the works of excellence in agricultural research that Fertiberia grants and of the daily work of this company. In that sense, she recognized the work of Fertiberia, through this and other initiatives in favor of research and technical dissemination, highlighting the activities of the Fertiberia Chair of Agro-Environmental Studies.

Source: Fertiberia

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