



Dr. O.M.B. de Ponti

In 1971 Dr. Ir. Orlando de Ponti graduated as Agricultural Engineer at the Wageningen Agricultural University in Plant Breeding, Genetics, Plant Protection and Horticulture. In 1980 he obtained his doctorate from the same university with a thesis on Resistance in *Cucumis sativus* L. to the spider mite *Tetranychus urticae* Koch.

From 1971 to 1991 he worked in Wageningen, the Netherlands, for the Directorate for Agricultural Research (DLO) of the Ministry of Agriculture and Fisheries. First as a plant breeding scientist at the Institute for Horticultural Plant Breeding (IVT-DLO), then as Head of the Vegetables Breeding Department at the same institute and finally as Director of the Research Institute for Plant Protection (IPO-DLO).

In 1991 Orlando de Ponti made the change-over from public research to industry, when he accepted the function of Managing Director Research and Development and member of the Management Board of Nunhems B.V., Haelen, the Netherlands, which company belongs today to Bayer CropScience. Since May 2008 he is Senior R&D Advisor with Nunhems B.V.

Nunhems' R&D department is active in breeding, biotechnology, seed-technology and food-technology. It has research and breeding locations in the Netherlands, France, Italy, Spain, Israel, Jordan, Turkey, USA, Mexico, Brazil, Chile, India and China. The global R&D department has more than 350 employees, more than 60 with an academic degree. The breeding is market driven, and innovative by implementing the latest results from cell and molecular biology.

Furthermore, Orlando de Ponti is currently the President of the International Seed Federation (ISF), a member of the CGIAR Genetic Resources Policy Committee (GRPC), member of the Governing Board of the Dutch Technology Top Institute for Green Genetics (TTI GG), and member of the supervisory board of three international breeding companies.