



## **E. C. A. (Ed) RUNGE - (CV/BRIEF)**

Presently Ed Runge is Program Director and Judging Panel Chair for **Monsanto's Beachell-Borlaug International Scholars Program** to train PhD students in rice and wheat breeding. The program is administered by him through the AgriLife Research Program of the Texas A&M University System. Formerly he was Professor and Billie B. Turner Chair in Production Agronomy (Emeritus) in the Soil & Crop Sciences Department at TAMU; is Secretary for AAAS' Section on Agriculture, Food and Renewable Resources since 1991; and is active in WORLD FOOD PRIZE activities (Ambassador Ken Quinn, President). He was appointed to the National Agricultural Research, Extension, Education and Economics (NAREEE) Advisory Board for the USDA by Acting Secretary of Agriculture, Chuck Connor on October 24, 2007. He was involved in bringing Dr. Norman E. Borlaug to the Soil and Crop Sciences Department at TAMU as a Distinguished Professor of International Agriculture for one semester each year beginning in 1984 that continued until his death on September 12, 2009.

Dr. Runge has been one of the most visible Agronomists in the last half of the 20th century. He received his BS (Ag Ed) and MS (Soils) degrees from the University of Illinois and a PhD (Soils) from Iowa State University. He served on the faculty at Iowa State University, University of Illinois, and was Chairman of the Agronomy Department at the University of Missouri prior to becoming Head of the Soil & Crop Sciences Department at Texas A&M University. He has served in top leadership roles as President of the Soil Science Society of America in 1985, as President of the American Society of Agronomy in 1989, and President of the Council on Agricultural Science and Technology in 2006-2007. He received the AGRONOMIC SERVICE AWARD from the ASA in 1995 and received the Texas A&M University's Faculty Distinguished Achievement Award for Administration in 1988. The first department head so honored. Additionally, he was a leader in the formation of the Certified Crop Advisor Program of American Society of Agronomy; served for 10 years on the Board of Directors of the International Fertilizer and Development Center; served for 8 years on the Board of Directors of the Foundation for Agronomic Research; has been a major advisor to and reviewer of the TROPISOILS, INTSORMIL and Peanut CRSP (Collaborative Research Support Program) projects funded by USAID; is a strong advocate for looking at demand enhancement for agronomic crops as an alternative to supply control; and has served on numerous college, university, agency and National Research Council committees and work groups. He has advised 19 graduate students, 10 were foreign students.

Since stepping down as department head in 1999 he returned to his corn yield and production forecasting work for the corn belt with support from the National Agricultural Statistics Service (NASS) of USDA, and strived to impart his international experiences to others by teaching Agriculture Study Abroad Courses to Vietnam, Brazil (3), and New Zealand and Australia. Agricultural Crop Improvement in Sub-Saharan West Africa and in the hills of Northern Myanmar (Burma) has particular appeal to him at the present time. He has served as technical advisor to the Burma (Now Myanmar) Crop Improvement Project (Old Soldier Project) concentrating on corn, wheat, buckwheat and various vegetable crops since 1996. Burma farmers he works with exported \$1,000,000 worth of corn to China in 2005 that continues to the present. He has lived or worked in many different countries (70+) of the world with longer term assignments in New Zealand and Indonesia.

One of Dr. Runge's driving forces is a strong belief that the status quo is not good enough. He continually looks for ways to improve everything from working conditions for faculty to the practices of organizations and groups to which he belongs. He seeks ways to help those for whom he has administrative responsibility be as good as they can be. He has been successful because he places confidence in subordinates and supports them; he knows how to listen; he isn't afraid to risk rejection in order to accomplish goals; and he is a very knowledgeable and well published agronomist.