

Short biography

Prof. Fons Werrij

Fons Werrij studied biology at the Catholic University of Nijmegen, the Netherlands, and was awarded the PhD on Chemical Cytology by the same university in 1973. From then he was affiliated as post-doc and senior scientist with the Institute for Application of Atomic Energy in Agriculture (ITAL) in Wageningen for a period of 8 years conducting research on the effect of ionizing radiation on the metabolism of plant cells and developing in vitro technology for molecular plant breeding.

In 1981 he joined the Dutch ministry of Agriculture, Nature Management and Food as Inspector and – later on – Director Plant Productivity Research. Following the separation of Dutch Agricultural Research from the ministry, he became Director of International Cooperation of DLO (Dutch Agricultural Research Organization). Following the merger of DLO and Wageningen University in 2000, he became General Advisor of the Board of Governors on matters of International Relations and Public Affairs.

Fons Werrij holds an extraordinary chair at Radboud University on ‘Use and Management of Biological Knowledge in Society and Industry’ and he is the chair of the National Program Committee on ‘the Societal Component of Genomics Research’. Until 2004 he was member of the management committee of the OECD cooperative program ‘Biological Resource Management for Sustainable Agricultural Systems’.

From 1997 he is the Secretary General of the European Agricultural Research Initiative (EURAGRI).

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