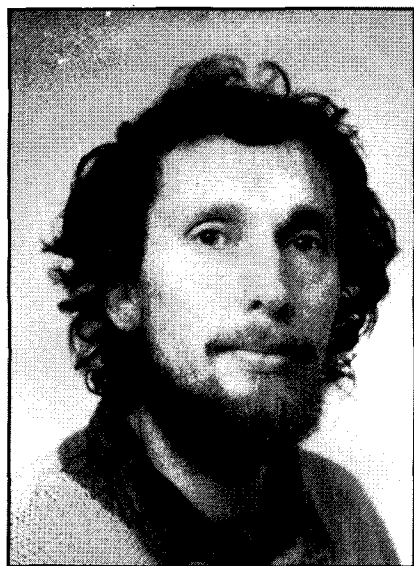


In memoriam Dr Ir C. J. T. Spitters



On 26 April 1990, we were confronted with the sudden death, at the age of 39, of Dr Ir C. J. T. (Kees) Spitters. We were deeply shocked by the death of our colleague and friend.

Kees was a senior research officer at the Department of Theoretical Production Ecology of Wageningen Agricultural University, the Foundation for Plant Breeding (SVP) and the Centre for Agrobiological Research (CABO). He was one of the world's leading scientists in the field of modelling plant growth and crop production. His work covered a wide range of disciplines, especially crop physiology, ecology and plant breeding. Inter-disciplinarity was for him an operational notion. His strong analytical capabilities brought an array of simulation models at various levels of abstraction. He strongly ad-

vocated a dual approach: simple models should be applied for practical purposes, such as predicting crop yields in different agro-ecological zones; whereas more detailed mechanistic models were considered appropriate as research tools.

His original ideas and his often unconventional approach have stimulated scientists, students and decision-makers to face challenges and recognize opportunities beyond their traditional horizons.

In his scientific career, Kees was highly productive in writing many excellent scientific contributions and lucid course texts, the former being highly esteemed by colleagues all over the world, and the latter highly appreciated by students from Wageningen Agricultural University and such international research institutes as IRRI and ICARDA. His dedication to teaching stretched beyond the limits of plant breeding and crop physiology. For several years he contributed to a course on the impact of agricultural research and development on society.

Apart from being an excellent scientist, Kees was a family man with a great love and respect for his wife and their three children. It was always a pleasure to visit them at home. The open conversations and the pleasant atmosphere never failed to make one feel at ease. In these surroundings Kees enjoyed life best, as often illustrated by his very characteristic smile.

The Centre for Agrobiological Research has lost a brilliant scientist and we all lost an amiable colleague and a warm-hearted friend.

Our sympathy and condolences go to his wife and children. We wish them the courage to bear this great and sudden loss.

*Prof. Dr Ir H. van Keulen
(Acting head Dept. Agrosystems Research)*

*Dr Ir J. H. J. Spiertz
(Director)*