

## **In memory of Louis Ollivier, French geneticist and EAAP Leroy Award recipient**

It is with great sadness that we inform the community that Louis Ollivier, emeritus director of research in the Animal Genetics Department of INRAE, passed away peacefully on Wednesday 22<sup>nd</sup> July.

Louis Ollivier graduated from National Agronomic Institute Paris-Grignon (currently AgroParisTech) and earned his master's degree at Iowa State under J.L. Lush in 1957. He then joined INRA where he was one of the founding members of the INRA Animal Genetics Division. Louis Ollivier became the leader of the pig genetics team at INRA and has been strongly involved in the development of the French national pig breeding programmes. He rapidly gained international renown through his work on genetic variability and selection of traits of interest and his theoretical contributions to the optimisation of breeding schemes. Louis Ollivier also published in 1981 "Elements of quantitative genetics", a reference work on the subject in France. At the beginning of the 1980's, Louis Ollivier took over the management of INRA's Quantitative and Applied Genetics (SGQA) research unit, a position he held for almost 10 years. In the 1990's, he became editor-in-chief of the journal "Genetics, Selection, Evolution" (1991-1996) and continued to have a leading research activity until the mid-2000s. As the initiator of several large-scale European projects, he played an important role in the development of work on the genetic mapping of pigs and the characterization of the genetic diversity of pig populations. Subsequently, Louis Ollivier was a very active retiree, notably as a member of the French and Swedish agricultural academies. He had chaired the EAAP working group on Animal Genetic Resources for practically ten years, from 1993 to 2002. Louis Ollivier's long list of publications, including two books in the EAAP Scientific Series of which he was co-editor: "Dictionary of animal production terminology" - N. 60 / 1993 and "Pig genetic resources in Europe" - N. 104 / 2001 both published by Wageningen Academic Publishers, his distinctions (as the EAAP Leroy fellowship award in 1993) and the many invited conferences around the world are the best indicators of Louis Ollivier's influence in the field of genetics. He has guided and influenced many animal geneticists, who will always remember him as a scientist of exemplary rigour and integrity, a man with a large general culture and an excellent tennis player, his sport of choice, which he successfully taught for many years to his colleagues in Jouy. Our thoughts go out to his family, in particular his wife Michèle, also a former colleague of INRA in Jouy, and to his loved ones.