

On May 27, 2011 the Wolf-Prize Winner in Agriculture (1980) Prof. Karl Maramorosch visited the PBU, Dept. Biotechnology, VIBT, BOKU, Vienna.



„Especially in newly domesticated crop plants as in the case of *Jatropha curcas* the virological and vector research aspects have an important role“ confirms the renowned phytopathologist Prof. Dr. Karl Maramorosch in the occasion of his visit at Plant Biotechnology Unit at BOKU.

Prof. Dr. Karl Maramorosch has made major contributions to comparative virology, insect cell culture, and virus-vector interactions. Born in Vienna in 1915 and grown up in Poland, Prof. Maramorosch emigrated to the USA after World War II, where he began his scientific career at the Brooklyn Botanic Garden in 1947. At Rockefeller University, he carried out a serial passage of the aster yellows phytoplasma in leafhopper vectors, demonstrating the multiplication of plant pathogenic phytoplasmas in invertebrate animal hosts. Then at Boyce Thompson Institute and later at Rutgers University he developed the hypothesis that certain viruses and phytoplasmas are pathogens of both plant and invertebrate animal hosts. Prof. Maramorosch was awarded the Wolf Prize in Agriculture, often called the Agriculture Nobel Prize, in 1980 for his work on interactions between insect vectors and plant pathogens. His work resulted in the publication of over 800 scientific papers, as well as over 100 edited books on viruses, invertebrate cell culture, and plant diseases.

Prof. Maramorosch was particularly pleased with the documents kindly provided by the Rectorate of BOKU and a visit to the Festsaal, where his father in 1877 received his agricultural study degree from the Hochschule für Bodenkultur.



Prof. Hermann Katinger and Prof. Sibirny discussing virological issues with Prof. Karl Maramorosch and Prof. Margit Laimer at PBU, DBT, BOKU Vienna.

