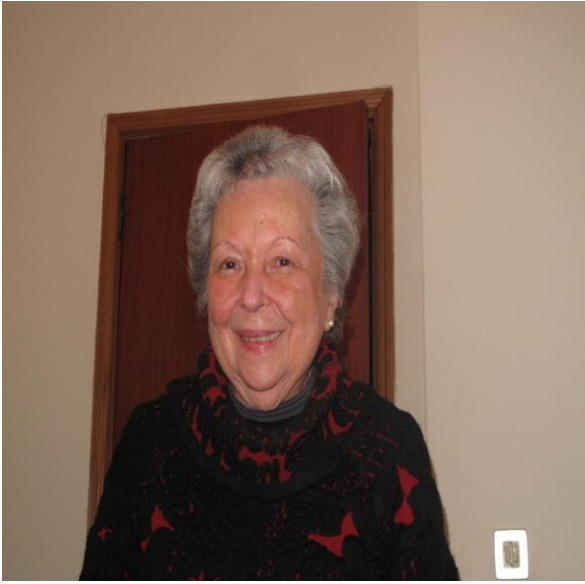


Rena Farias (1934-2021)



It is with great sadness that we announce the passing of our friend and colleague Dr. Rena Farias on August 16, 2021.

Rena was one of the first graduates of the MSc course on plant genetic resources at the University of Birmingham, UK, where, in 1976, she also got her PhD in the same subject. She devoted the last 40 years to the conservation and use of plant genetic resources for food and agriculture.

A Brazilian citizen, in the 70's of last century Rena settled in Portugal and her commitment and enthusiasm towards PGRFA were instrumental for the founding of the *Banco Português de*

Germoplasma Vegetal, BPGV in Braga, the city where she lived and loved the most.

She retired in 2004, nevertheless kept on being a source of knowledge and an inspiration to the newer generations.

In 2006, the Portuguese government recognized Rena Faria's lifetime achievements by awarding her the "Order of Agriculture, Commercial and Industrial Merit", "Class of Agriculture Merit".

Rena will be tremendously missed. In 2010, in the framework of *La Settimana della Biodiversità* - the week-long celebration of biodiversity in music, video and art, which took place in Rome, Italy, Rena received the Award of the "Guardian of Diversity in the Mediterranean".

Rest in Peace!

Ana Maria Barata, Banco Português de Germoplasma Vegetal, Braga, Portugal