

## A Tribute to Professor Dr Heinrich Schmutterer

It is with deep sadness that we heard of the passing of Professor Dr Heinrich Schmutterer on December 21, 2022, at the age of 96. He was a distinguished entomologist and pioneer in neem research, based at Justus-Liebig University, Institute of Phytopathology & Zoology, Giessen, Germany.

Born on April 11, 1926, Professor Schmutterer devoted 65 years of his life to the study of neem, after discovering its remarkable insect repellent properties on a field trip to Sudan. His early research subsequently inspired teams from around the world to produce a vast body of scientific work on the neem tree, which ultimately brought neem and its products to the Western world.

Throughout his long and illustrious career, Professor Schmutterer published numerous scientific papers and articles on neem. He collaborated with other leading neem scientists, including the renowned Dr Ramesh Saxena from India. As a scientific editor, he worked with over fifty scientists to produce the quintessential reference book on neem, 'THE NEEM TREE', in 1995, which was followed by a second, expanded edition in 2002 that is still widely used today. He was often sought after for interviews and appeared in a TV interview with Dr. David Szuki for the documentary, 'What's in a Neem?'

During my visit to Professor Schmutterer's home in Wettenberg, Germany, I was struck by his deep knowledge of neem, his love for the neem tree, and his unwavering dedication to the global neem community, including fellow scientists such as Dr Ramesh Saxena from India and the World Neem Organization (WNO). It was evident why he was considered to be the 'Father of Modern Neem.' To me, he was not only a top expert in his field but also a person with a generous spirit who encouraged me and many others to continue advocating and writing about the miraculous neem tree from India.

In recognition of his influence and guidance, I have included a chapter about the life and times of Professor Dr Schmutterer in the third edition of my neem book, 'Neem: Nature's Healing Gift to Humanity,' due out in July 2023.

Professor Dr Schmutterer will always be remembered as the 'Father of Modern Neem,' a friend, and a mentor to many. His contributions to the field of entomology and neem research will continue to inspire generations to come.

Klaus Ferlow

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