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**STROKES TO THE PORTRAIT SKETCHES OF THE HEADS OF
POLTAVA RESEARCH FIELDS
(to 150th anniversary of the Poltava society of agriculture)**

Summary

The celebrations at the national level on occasion of the 150th anniversary of the Poltava society of agriculture took place September 29, 2015. A historical study of the formation and activity of the main branch of Poltava society of agriculture – Poltava experimental field through the prism of the creative heritage of its directors during the 1884-1909 years is conducted with the involvement of available periodicals of the late XIX –early XX century.

Poltava experimental field was established on October 28, 1884. Since that time starts the countdown of the historical development of this famous institution. Significant achievements of Poltava experimental field under the leadership of B. Cherepakhin, V. Dyakov, Y. Sokolovskiy and S. Tretyakov are disclosed.

At the end of March 1885 to June 1891 the first director of the Poltava experimental field became B. Cherepakhin. In autumn 1885 under his program, approved by the Council of Poltava society of agriculture, first experiments with the sowing of winter were placed. Prominent Ukrainian scientists thought that Poltava program destined to play a crucial role in the development of Russian research case.

The second head of the Poltava experimental field became Vasiliy Dyakov – from June 1891 to August 1899. His main attention focused on the methodology of experiments, determining the moisture, measurement and weighing plants to detect the effect of different processing techniques, harvest and so on. He emphatically remarked on the need of laboratory tests to identify the causes of certain results of the experiments.

The third director of the Poltava experimental field was appointed Yuri Sokolovskiy. He headed the research institution on September 17, 1899 to January 1, 1905. A new head all his energy directed at promoting the achievements of research institutions. Y. Sokolovskiy as director of the Poltava experimental field from January 1, 1905 replaced Sergei Tretyakov. With the name of the scientist related studies on cultivation, its humidity, drought, crop rotation, and the impact of environmental factors on the growth, development and yield of crops, legumes importance in agriculture and their participation in the nitrogen cycle in nature. His main merit is to provide more scientific character of labor in institution, bringing it closer to the type of research stations, which in 1909 Poltava experimental field transformed under the leadership of S. Tretyakov.

Recreating the major milestones of activity of outstanding figures of agricultural science was possible thanks to the use of chronological, bibliographical methods, historical research, source analysis, the method of personalization, etc.

Keywords: *Poltava experimental field, Poltava society of agriculture, B. Cherepakhin, V. Dyakov, Y. Sokolovskiy, S. Tretyakov, agricultural experimental deed, agrarian science.*