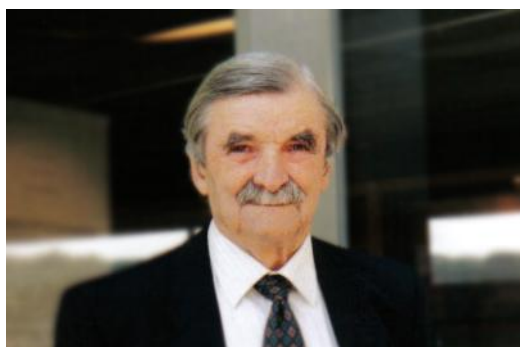




**LOUIS MALASSIS**  
INTERNATIONAL SCIENTIFIC PRIZE

Louis MALASSIS  
(1918-2007)



*Louis Malassis was a highly esteemed French educator, agronomist and agro-economist. He was an ardent supporter of farmers' cause and founder of Agropolis and Agropolis Museum*

Born to a modest farming family in Brittany in 1918, Malassis remained faithful agriculture throughout his lifetime. He studied at the National School of Agriculture in Rennes and started his career as an engineer and later as Professor of rural economy in 1945. He obtained a doctorate in Economics at the University of Rennes. He taught at the Graduate School of Agronomy in both Rennes and Montpellier and was among the principal advisers of INRA, the French institute for agricultural research. He became the Director-General for Research and Education at the French Ministry of Agriculture in 1978 and later at the Mediterranean Agronomic Institute. He was adviser to several agriculture ministers.

In 1986, he founded Agropolis, an international campus based in Montpellier which groups together various research organizations and institutes for higher learning in agriculture in the Languedoc Roussillon region. Today, Agropolis is home to one of the world's largest concentration of scientific skills and expertise in agriculture, food and environment. In 1992, he founded Agropolis Museum which serves as a cultural link between the scientific research community and the public. Exhibitions on agro-food topics on a global scale are presented to the public to help understand problems related to food production.

Malassis was also co-founder of various initiatives that supports and promotes farmers rights. He authored "*L'épopée inachevée des paysans du monde*" (The unfinished quest of the farmers of the world), among others. In 2005, he founded "*Association Paroles de paysans du monde*" a group which aims to promote and disseminate writings and publications that serve as testimony to farming.

After his death in 2007, this association started to confer the **Louis Malassis Literary Prize**. Agropolis Fondation's **Louis Malassis International Scientific Prize** for Agriculture and Food complements this award.

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