



## **GALE A. BUCHANAN**

Gale A. Buchanan was born in Madison County, Florida, where he spent his first 18 years on a general farm that produced crops and livestock. He received the B.S. and M.S. degrees in Agronomy from the University of Florida and the Ph.D. in Plant Physiology from Iowa State University.

Dr. Buchanan spent the first 21 years of his professional career with Auburn University. The first 16 years were spent as a professor in the Department of Agronomy and Soils with teaching and research responsibilities in weed science. He then served as Dean and Director of the Alabama Agricultural Experiment Station from 1980 to 1985.

On April 14, 1986, he was appointed Associate Director of the Georgia Agricultural Experiment Stations and Resident Director of the Coastal Plain Experiment Station in Tifton. In 1994 he served briefly as Director of the Georgia Agricultural Experiment Stations. He was appointed Dean and Director of the University of Georgia College of Agricultural and Environmental Sciences March 1, 1995. He relinquished the position of Dean and Director on December 31, 2004.

He then served as a professor at the National Environmental Sound Production Agriculture Laboratory in Tifton, Georgia until his retirement from UGA in April 30, 2005. He served on the Board of Directors of the Sunbelt Agricultural Exposition and the Georgia Agrirama Foundation Board (Georgia's Museum of Agriculture) until 2006.

In 2005, he was nominated by President Bush to serve as Under Secretary for Research, Education, and Economics in the U.S. Department of Agriculture. He was confirmed for this position by the United States Senate on May 2006. With the passage of the 2008 Farm Bill, he assumed the responsibility of USDA Chief Scientist along with that of Under Secretary for Research, Education and Economics. He served in this capacity until January 20, 2009.

After retiring from the University of Georgia and completing the appointment as Chief Scientist and Under Secretary in the USDA, he remained active in several academic areas. This included serving as senior author on a Council for Agricultural Science & Technology (CAST) Issue Paper No. 45 entitled, "Agricultural Productivity Strategies for the Future: Addressing U.S. and Global Challenges." He also served for two years as Chair of the CAST Board of Trustees. He has also served as Co-chair for the Research Section of Solutions from the Land that was sponsored by the United Nations Foundation, Conservation International, the Nature Conservancy and the Farm Foundation. This is an effort to develop integrated solutions to achieve global food and energy security while giving consideration for biodiversity conservation, deforestation,

climate change, economic security and sustainable development. He has also given a number of lectures at various university, industry, commodity and trade venues.

Working with three colleagues he co-authored a book entitled, “Leadership in Agriculture: Case Studies for a New Generation” published by Texas A&M University Press in 2013. Another book, “Feeding the World – Agricultural Research in the 21<sup>st</sup> Century” will be published by Texas A&M University Press later this year. Still another book, “Role of Branch Sites for Agricultural Research” is under review. Other writing projects are currently underway.

He served the National Agricultural System in numerous capacities including Chair of the Southern Section of Agricultural Experiment Station Directors, Chair of NASULGC Administrative Heads Section, NASULGC Chair of the Board on Agriculture Budget Committee and Chair of the NASULGC Board on Agriculture Assembly. Also, his service included serving on numerous committees including Chair of an ESCOP Special Initiative Committee. This committee identified Enhancing Leadership as the single greatest opportunity for strengthening the agricultural research system in the U.S. Following this, the ESCOP Leadership Development Program was initiated. He had the pleasure of serving as the Chair of the first cohort of this effort.

Currently he serves as Dean and Director Emeritus, College of Agricultural and Environmental Sciences, University of Georgia, Tifton Campus, Tifton, Georgia.

He was a distinguished military graduate (DMG) of the Army ROTC program at the University of Florida. Throughout a 30+ year career he served as platoon leader, company commander, battalion commander, CID detachment commander and deputy commander for an area support group. His last assignment was commandant of the Alabama Military Academy. He retired from the U.S. Army National Guard in 1992, with the federally recognized rank of Colonel (O-6).