

Alf de Ruvo

After taking his MSc in chemistry and a Licentiate of Engineering degree in paper technology, Alf de Ruvo spent a couple of years as a research scientist in the USA. In 1970, he took up an appointment at STFI, the Swedish Forest Research Laboratory, where he advanced to become Head of Research for the Paper Technology Department. In 1983, he became Director of Research at Sunds Defibrator AB and, in 1987, he moved to a similar position within SCA, where he was Executive Vice President from 1993 and the group's Head of Research and Technical Development.



Alf de Ruvo's career cannot, however, be summarized in just a few lines; his achievements for the Swedish forest products industry in general and for SCA in particular – as a research scientist, technical innovator, inspiration and mentor – have few parallels.

Alf de Ruvo's soul was in research. His own fields of research at STFI included paper physics, composites, product properties and converting, but his greatest achievement was in creating a research climate which inspired his colleagues and fellow-workers. He was full of imagination and enthusiasm, he found it easy to cooperate and, thanks to his personality and integrity, he built up a great international contact network. He was the motivating force behind the unique experimental papermaking machine which is now to be found at STFI. He also initiated forest products industrial research at many academic institutions and his efforts were decisive for the development of what is now the Mid-Sweden University. He was also very active during various periods as a member of STFI's Board of Directors, in the research committee of The Swedish Forest Industries Federation and as Chairman of the Board of FPIRC, the Forest Products Industry Research College at KTH. In 1998, the Swedish Association of Pulp and Paper Engineers awarded Alf de Ruvo its prestigious Ekman Medal.

Alf de Ruvo's years at Sunds Defibrator were a time marked by the breakthrough of new technology and he was committed not only to the technical development but also to introducing the technology to the customers. In SCA, Alf de Ruvo established a new research culture in the company. His career coincided with a period when the market's demands for product quality were intensified, a fact which Alf de Ruvo noted at an early stage and put into practice. SCA's product portfolio was radically renewed and Alf de Ruvo was often the moving force behind these developments. He was also a mentor for many young research scientists and engineers in the company – he followed the progress of their careers with consideration and good advice. This was a role which he not least himself considered to be very important.

His enthusiasm and commitment were also combined with an analytical clear-sightedness in thought and words. He was honest, fearless and sincere.