

Henk A. Tennekes graduated from the Agricultural University of Wageningen, The Netherlands, in 1974, and performed his Ph.D. work at Shell Research Ltd in Sittingbourne in the UK. He worked at the German Cancer Research Centre in Heidelberg from 1980-1985 and was Chief Toxicologist at a major contract research organisation in Switzerland from 1986-1992. In 1992, Dr. Tennekes established an independent consultancy for product safety assessment, ETS Experimental Toxicology Services, which has served leading companies in the chemical industry over the past two decades, with an excellent record of achievement. Dr. Tennekes was Secretary of the Toxicology Section of the Swiss Society of Pharmacology and Toxicology from 1992-1998 and a Member of the Board of Directors of the Swiss Register of Toxicologists from 1996-2000. He authored important papers in the field of toxicological research, most recently a chapter in a text book on Cancer Risk Assessment, published by John Wiley & Sons. The culmination of Dr Tennekes' research was his recent discovery that the way a new generation of insecticides, the so-called neonicotinoids, work has much in common with chemical carcinogens - cancer-causing agents, the implication being that safe exposure levels cannot be defined for a category of pesticides used all over the world. When he realized the dire consequences of environmental pollution with these insecticides, he decided to write the now famous book "*The Systemic Insecticides: A Disaster in the Making*" to warn the general public about an impending environmental catastrophe.