



TOMÁS FUERTES FERNÁNDEZ PRESIDENT

PROFESSIONAL BACKGROUND AND BIOGRAPHY

Born in June 1940 in Alhama de Murcia, in the Region of Murcia (Spain). Married and father to four children.

A businessman by vocation, he has been working for more than 60 years in the holding company of which he is president, Grupo Fuertes, consolidated as an international consumer benchmark thanks to its powerful core of agro-food companies and a collection of diversified investments guaranteeing its soundness and future. Reinvestment, work, honesty and perseverance are the four parameters which make up the holding company's DNA.

Two of the companies which particularly stand out among the twenty which make up Grupo Fuertes are ELPOZO ALIMENTACIÓN and Procavi, for their leadership in their respective sectors. With more than 7000 direct employees, 50,000 indirect and a turnover which in 2018 reached 1668 million euros, the business philosophy of the company is based on continuous improvement, reinvestment and sustainable development.

He applies the philosophy which has marked his life to Grupo Fuertes, which can be summed up as "You must have drive and enthusiasm to do things well under the umbrella of human values". He believes that "Life is a business, a necessary management from which you need to achieve a positive balance" and he advocates that people should have a spirit of constant improvement to reach excellence.

Training

Diploma of Business Management from the University of Murcia and the Chamber of Commerce.

Diploma in Commercial Management from the Ministry of Economy.

Constant seminars and congresses at different universities and venues.

Institutional representation

Member of the Executive Board of the **Spanish Chamber of Commerce**.

Member of the Executive Board of ANICE. (National Association of Meat Industries in Spain)

Member of the Executive Board of the Confederation of Businessmen and women of the Region of Murcia, **CROEM**.

President of the Association for the Progress of Management in the Region of Murcia, **APD**.

Honorary President of the Murcian Family Business Association (**Amefmur**).

AWARDS

In 2003, **Best Business Career** by the publication Actualidad Económica.

In 2004, **Entrepreneur of the Year** by Ernst and Young, IESE and the newspaper ABC.

In 2006, the Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food award him the **Order of Food Merit**, for his important role in the development and modernisation of the Spanish food sector.

In 2008, the publication Dirigentes award him for his **Professional Career**.

In 2008, **Leader of the Year in Food** by the Leaders of Industry and Distribution Club.

In 2009, **Best Business Career** by the economic magazine Capital.

In 2010, the Financiero Génova Club name him the **Best Businessman of the Year**.

In 2010, the Spanish Federation of Radio and Television Associations award him the **Golden Antenna** for his **Business Career** and best businessman.

In 2011, bestowed the **Gold Medal for Work Merit**, highest distinction awarded by the Spanish Government in recognition of his extraordinary work. This recognition is awarded by the State to those figures who have stood out for their socially useful behaviour and are an example of the undertaking of duties that any work, profession or trade should involve.

In 2013, bestowed the **Gold Medal from the Region de Murcia**.

In 2013, the Ministry of Economy and Competitiveness presents him with the **Medal of Merit in Commerce**.

In 2014, **Gold Medal from CROEM** (Regional Confederation of Businessmen and women in the Region of Murcia).

In 2015, **COFIDES Prize** (Spanish Company for the Financing of Development) for his **promotion of internationalization**.

In 2015, together with his brother José and sister Juana, he is named **Hijo Predilecto de Alhama de Murcia**, (favourite child of Alhama de Murcia) his hometown, a distinction which was also given to his father and founder of the company, Antonio Fuertes.

In 2017, National Association of Meat Industries of Spain (ANICE) award him, together with his brother and sister, the **Prize for Business Career**.

In 2018 he is conferred **honorary doctorate** from the University of Murcia, on the motion of the Faculties of Economics and Business and Veterinary Science.

In 2018, receives the **Special Mention for his Business Career** from the hands of the Young Businessmen and Women Association AJE.

In 2018, receives **Prize for Person Excellence** in the 'Business Field', from the Madrid Excelente Foundation.

In 2018 is recognised with the **Golden Antenna** from the National Association of Radio and Television Professionals

In 2019 is named '**Businessman of the Year**' in the 'Tu Economía' awards organised by the national newspaper La Razón

In 2021, receives the award from the Spanish Food and Drink Federation (FIAB) for his commitment and contribution to promoting the Spanish agri-food sector.

In 2023, is chosen among the Spanish leaders with the best reputation in the Merco Líderes Ranking.