

Obituaries

Dr. Dharampal Singh

It is with deep sorrow that we announce the demise of Dr. Dharampal Singh, who left for his heavenly abode on Feb. 9, 2015. Dr. Singh was born on October 18, 1922 in Mahabatpur, UP. He obtained his B.Sc. (Ag.) in 1941 from Government Agriculture College, Kanpur, U.P. and M.Sc. in 1945 from Banaras Hindu University (B.H.U.), Banaras, UP. He went abroad in the first batch of Indian students and completed his M.S.A. degree in 1946 from University of Toronto, Canada and his Ph.D. in Genetics and Plant Breeding from University of Minnesota, USA in 1949.

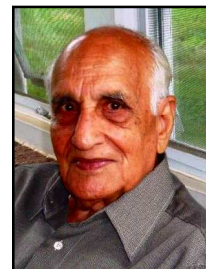
Dr. Singh made significant contributions in research and education throughout his career. He started as a Lecturer (1945-1946) at B.H.U. and then served for a decade (1949-1958) as Assistant Economic Botanist at Department of Agriculture, Kanpur, UP. He joined Indian Council of Agricultural Research (ICAR), Kanpur, as Head of Project for Research on Cotton, Oilseeds and Millets (PIRCOM) from 1958-1961. He also worked as Oilseed Development and Research Officer for ICAR, Hyderabad from 1961-1962.

Dr. Singh served on several administrative positions in India and abroad. He was Principal of Government Agriculture College, Kanpur (1962-1966), Additional Director, Department of Agriculture, Lucknow, U.P. (1966-1970), and Director, U.P. Institute of Agricultural Sciences, Kanpur (1970-1974). He became Director of Research and Pro-Vice-Chancellor of Haryana Agricultural University, Hissar (1975-1977) and Vice Chancellor of G.B. Pant University of Agriculture and Technology, Pantnagar (1977-1978). Dr. Singh was Visiting Professor of Plant Sciences at University of Agriculture, Saltillo, Coahuilo, Mexico from 1980-1984. He also worked as Director of Quality Assurance at Enviro-Bio-Tech Ltd., Bernville, PA, USA from 1985-2004.

In 1997 the University of Western Ontario, Canada celebrated Fifty Years of Indo-Canadian Cooperation and held a recognition banquet in honour of Dr. D.P. Singh for his contribution to agricultural research and education in India and abroad. Dr. Singh was the President of the Indian Society of Genetics and Plant Breeding, New Delhi during 1976. In recognition of his significant contribution to research, education and developmental activities, Dr. Singh was honored with a Life Time Achievement Award by the Society for Rapeseed-Mustard Research, Bharatpur (Raj), India in 2012.

Dr. Singh was internationally acclaimed for his contributions in the field of Genetics and Plant Breeding particularly for developing several improved varieties of oilseeds and pulses, besides an outstanding compendium on Mustard and Rape Seeds. He was best known as an affectionate administrator who used a mix of hard work, discipline and love to inspire colleagues and students

alike. Amidst all his administrative work, he never lost touch with teaching and research. He was an excellent teacher and regularly taught under- and post-graduate courses and supervised post-graduate research students who have served or are still working in several institutions worldwide.



After retiring Dr. Singh lived an active and full life at his farmhouse in Pennsylvania, USA. Always fond of reading, he had learnt Russian and Spanish late in life and continued to read literature in these languages till his nineties. But his greatest joy was working with plants in gardens and fields. Till his eighties and early nineties he maintained the most beautiful rose, flower, fruit, and vegetable garden. Keeping close to his cultural heritage he spent hours growing sweet corn, strawberries, potatoes, tomatoes, and peas, and tending his flower garden full of roses, dahlias, crocus, peonies, pansies, tulips, and clematis.

Simplicity, high thinking, diligence, dedication, devotion, discipline and determination have been synonyms with Prof. Singh. Also, he was known for his multifarious activities, extraordinary cooperation, and good sense of humor. He inspired confidence, strength, and inculcated a sense of institutional loyalty and belonging among his colleagues and students to harness the best of their capabilities for societal good. He will be remembered as a cherished research guide, an outstanding teacher, an intelligent and visionary researcher who could foresee new vistas in crop improvement and agro-technology, and above all as a generous, kind-hearted and very hard-working person.

R. B. Singh

Chancellor, Central Agricultural University
Immediate Past President, NAAS

Rama Shankar Singh

McMaster University, Hamilton, Canada

Shiv Murti Singh

Univ. Western Ontario, London, Canada

R. M. Singh

Banaras Hindu University, Varanasi

On the sudden demise of Dr. Dharampal Singh, Former President, Indian Society of Genetics and Plant Breeding, New Delhi, the members of the Society pay their deep homage and pray for the peace of the great departed soul.

SMS Tomar

Editor

Dr. Yogendra Mohan Upadhyaya

The sad demise of Dr. Yogendra Mohan Upadhyaya, Ex-Head, Indian Agricultural Research Institute – Regional Station, Indore on 3rd November, 2014 at the age of 90 years has created an irreparable loss to the community of wheat breeders. He was born at a small village Mandaval, Ratlam District in Madhya Pradesh on 30th May, 1925. He passed High School from Ramjas High School, Delhi in 1939. A bright student all through, he passed all his exams in first class with distinction and graduated in Agriculture from Agra University in 1944. He pursued higher studies and obtained Post Graduate degree (Associateship) in Agricultural Botany and Plant Breeding from Imperial Agricultural Research Institute, New Delhi in 1946. He then joined the Indian Agricultural Research Institute and worked as Research Assistant. He obtained his Ph.D. degree from University of Sydney, Australia in 1957 for his research in plant breeding and genetics.

After his return from Australia, he worked meticulously and developed the station's infrastructure for rust resistance breeding in wheat till his retirement in 1985. Prior to joining the Indore station Dr. Upadhyaya also worked at IARI, Wheat Breeding Station, Wellington, The Nilgiris and Botanical Research Station (now IARI Regional Station), Pusa, Bihar for a brief period. He devoted his whole career to wheat research at Indore and became Head of the IARI Regional Station, Indore. He continued to be the Head of the station till his retirement.

Under his very inspiring leadership, 24 high yielding and rust resistant varieties of bread wheat varieties and durum wheat were released in central zone. Varieties such as NP 832, NP 839, HY 65, HY 633, Sujata, Mukta, Swati and Mangla of bread wheat and Meghdoot and Malavraj of durum wheat became very popular among farmers of Central India. A large area and occupied Chandausi grain of Sujata is fetching highest price in major cities of the country and has brought name and fame to M.P. wheat, putting the State on the quality map of the nation. Cultivar HI977 containing about 14.5% protein is known to be the best bread making genotype in the country. Another cultivar HI1077 developed at Indore possesses high degree of resistance against Karnal bunt. His work on dwarf durums laid the foundation for modern high yielding varieties of durum wheat.

Dr. Upadhyaya was very popular among the farmers. He organized various research meetings, including silver jubilee function and wheat workshop in 1976 at IARI-

Regional Station Indore. Quite often, eminent wheat researchers like Nobel Laureate Dr. Norman E. Borlaug, Dr. M.S. Swaminathan, Dr. A. B. Joshi, Dr. M. V. Rao, Dr. H.K. Jain, Dr. S. Rajaram, Dr. Sarri, Dr. Prescott and Dr. Dubin frequently visited the fields at this station appreciating the work done by Dr. Upadhyaya and his team.



During his service tenure, he guided 24 Ph.D. students on various aspects related to wheat and published several scientific papers in the Journals of repute. Coincidentally, his second last paper to this journal was submitted on 3rd Nov. 2014, the day of his sad demise. He worked as ICAR Research Review Committee member till 1996. He was also awarded a medal by Mexico Government for his contribution to improvement in wheat quality in 1968. In recognition of Dr. Upadhyaya's distinguished contribution to wheat breeding and the nation, he was honored by the then Chief Minister of Madhya Pradesh, Mr. Digvijay Singh in February 2006 at a valedictory function of the national workshop-cum-seminar on "Wheat Production Management and Trade" organized by IARI. Besides being an academician and a thorough gentleman, Dr. Y. M. Upadhyaya has helped many people suffering from various ailments with homoeopathy, which he pursued for many decades in off time as a hobby and perfected it by his dedication and for the well being of human kind.

Dr. Y. M. Upadhyaya, a multi-faceted personality and deeply religious person will not only be missed by his family members but also by his colleagues, students and staff working at the Regional Station, Indore. People of the like of Dr. Y. M. Upadhyaya are very rare to trudge this Earth and his memory will forever be etched in the hearts and minds of those whose lives he touched with his gentle and loving care. Such people become immortal and live forever, as is the saying, "to live in the hearts of those we leave behind is not to die".

In his passing away the country has lost an eminent wheat breeder who made pioneering contributions in enhancing wheat production in the country and particularly in Madhya Pradesh. On behalf of members of the Indian Society of Genetics and Plant Breeding and on my own behalf we pay homage to the departed soul.

SMS Tomar
Editor