



OBITUARIES

Dr. Madappa Mahadevappa was born on 4th August, 1937 in Madapura village, Chamarajanagar, Karnataka. His primary education was completed at Government Primary School, Madapura (1948), Govt. Boys Middle School (1952) and Municipal High School, Chamarajanagar (1955). He did his intermediate education at Mysore from Sharda Vilas College in 1957. He got his B.Sc.(Ag.) degree from the Hebbal Agricultural College and his M.Sc.(Ag.) and Ph. D. degrees from the Agriculture College, Coimbatore in 1962 and 1965, respectively. Subsequently, he joined as Post-Doctoral Fellow at CFTRI, Mysore (1966-67). In 1979, he joined the International Rice Research Institute, Manila and worked there up to 1981.

After serving several initial assignments, Dr. Mahadevappa joined as Professor of Genetics and Plant Breeding, Seed Technology in 1981 and served there till 1993. He was appointed as Director of Instruction in 1993. He became Vice chancellor, University of Agricultural Sciences (UAS), Dharwad, Karnataka in 1994 and completed his tenure in 2000. Subsequently, he became the Chairman, Agricultural Scientists Recruitment Board, New Delhi (January 2001 to August 2002). He became the Director, JSS Rural Development Foundation in 2003. Dr. Mahadevappa was also became the President, Forum of Former Vice Chancellors of Karnataka State Universities, Bengaluru.

Dr.M. Mahadevappa was a renowned agricultural scientist and a passionate rice breeder who developed several improved hybrid rice varieties for cultivation in the Karnataka state. His sustained breeding efforts at the Vishveshwaraiah Canal Farm, Mandya lead to release of rice varieties such as Madhu, Mangala, Pushpa, Pragathi, Intan, Vikram, Mukthi and several hybrids that gained popularity among the farming community. For the monumental contribution to the rice fraternity in Karnataka, he was popularly known as 'Rice Mahadevappa'. For his long illustrious career as an agricultural scientist, he was decorated with several awards and recognitions; notable among them are: KKM award, 1972; Hooker Award, 1981; Karnataka Govt. Rajyothsava Award, 1984; Nagamma Dattathreya Award, 1989; Sir Chotu Ram Award, 1996; Basava Guru Karunya Award-Ilkal, 1996, Bharat Ratna Sir M. Vishweshwarayya Memorial Award, 1999. Further, he was given Life Time Achievement award, Agriculture Leadership Award, 2009; Karnataka Govt.

Outstanding Kannada Science Writer, 2010; Amit Krishi Rishi Award, 2013; National Academy of Biological Science –Dr. Kannaiyasn Memorial Award, 2015. For his great contributions in agriculture and rural development, the Government of India conferred him with the Padma Shri in 2005 and Padma Bhusan in 2014.



He was elected as Fellow, National Academy of Agricultural Sciences, National Academy of Sericulture Sciences; National Academy of Biological Sciences; Indian Society of Genetics and Plant Breeding; Indian Society of Seed Technologists and Indian Science Writers Association. Dr. M. Mahadevappa was also elected as President, Indian Society of Genetics and Plant Breeding for 2002-2003 tenure. He was a member of Karnataka State Higher Education Council, Govt. of Karnataka; University Review Commission, Govt. of Karnataka and member Vision Group, Biotechnology, Govt. of Karnataka.

He was interested in research areas of genetics, plant breeding, seed science and technology and weed control, particularly, the control and management of the Parthenium. He had published about 200 research articles, authored 25 books, translated three books and also published a large number of popular articles. He was the research guide for a number of students. Dr. Mahadevappa has been a pious, generous and sober personality who was a great source of inspiration to the students, young researchers and scientists.

Dr. M. Mahadevappa was 84 years when he breathed his last. On his sudden demise, the country has lost an outstanding agricultural scientist and a visionary in the field of agricultural research and rural development. The members of the Indian Society of Genetics and Plant Breeding expresses deep condolence and pay homage to the departed soul and pray Almighty for eternal peace of the departed soul.

Akshay Talukdar, Editor
S.M.S. Tomar, Ex. Editor

Dr. Sushil Kumar

The Executive Council and the members of the Indian Society of Genetics and Plant Breeding (ISGPB), New Delhi are saddened at the demise of Prof. Sushil Kumar who passed away on May 2, 2021. Dr. Sushil Kumar was born on December 14, 1940, in Delhi. He got his early education at Municipal Primary School, Delhi from 1946 to 1950 and intermediate from Dayanand Anglo-Vedic Higher Secondary School, New Delhi in 1957. He completed his graduation in science in 1960 from Hans Raj College, Delhi in 1960. Dr. Kumar obtained his Masters degree in 1962 and Ph. D. in 1964 from the Indian Agricultural Research Institute (IARI), New Delhi under the Chairmanship of Dr. S. Ramanujam and Dr. D. T. Natrajan, respectively. He was an awardee of Postdoctoral Fellowship from the Cold Spring Harbor Laboratory, Long Island, New York in 1966-67; University of Wisconsin, Madison, Wisconsin, 1968-70 and University of Toronto, 1970-71.

Dr. Sushil Kumar joined the Division of Genetics, IARI as Junior Geneticist in 1971 and became Principal Scientist in 1983. He was appointed as Professor of the Division of Molecular Biology and Biotechnology under the newly established Biotechnology Centre (BTC) in 1985. In 1989, he joined as Scientist G at Council of Scientific and Industrial Research (CSIR), New Delhi and got selected as Director, Human Resource Development Group, CSIR in 1997. He moved to Lucknow as the Director of the National Botanical Research Institute in 1998 and left the institute to join as Director, Central Institute of Medicinal and Aromatic Plants (CIMAP), Lucknow in 1999 and served till 2000. After his superannuation, he was awarded the CSIR fellowship to work as Emeritus Scientist from 2001 to 2005. He became INSA Senior Scientist at the National Institute for Plant Genome Research (NIPGR), New Delhi from 2006 to 2010. Dr. Sushil Kumar had served the Indian Society of Genetics and Plant Breeding in the capacity of the Vice President during 1992-94 and got elected as President of the Society for the tenure 1994 – 1997.

Dr. Sushil Kumar was an outstanding plant scientist, a passionate microbial geneticist and a great

teacher of molecular biology and biotechnology. His research spanned over a range of subjects including plant and microbial genomics, food and industrial crop breeding and biotechnology, biodiversity and biosafety and human resource development.

He was known for his lucid style of teaching molecular biology and biotechnology. He was well known for his contributions to the structural arrangements in the interphase nucleus and for unraveling the transcription map of the bacteriophage Lamda. He discovered new genes in *Rhizobium*, a nitrogen fixing soil bacterium and developed its mutants that have higher nitrogen fixing capabilities. He published over 300 research articles, 25 books and received 80 patents for his dedicated work and discoveries. Dr. Sushil Kumar guided several M.Sc. and Ph. D. students and was a great source of inspiration to the young minds.

For his outstanding contributions, Dr. Sushil Kumar was decorated with several awards and recognitions such as IARI Gold Medal in 1965; Indian Society of Genetics and Plant Breeding Prize, 1965; Shanti Swaroop Bhatnagar Award-CSIR, 1981; National Academy of Sciences Distinguished Scientist Award, 1986; FICCI Science Award, 2000; Omprakash Bhasin award, 2000; Shyam Bahadur Saxena Medal, INSA and B.P Pal Memorial Lecture Award 2003. Besides, he was the Fellow of several academies viz., Indian National Science Academy, National Academy of Agricultural Sciences, National Academy of Sciences, India, Indian Academy of Sciences, and Indian Society of Genetics and Plant Breeding, 1982.

Dr. Sushil Kumar was 81 years old when he breathed his last. On his sudden demise, the country has lost a great molecular biologist, an excellent teacher, and a visionary scientist. The members of the Indian Society of Genetics and Plant Breeding express deep condolence and pay homage to the departed soul and pray Almighty for eternal peace.



Akshay Talukdar, Editor
S.M.S. Tomar, Ex. Editor