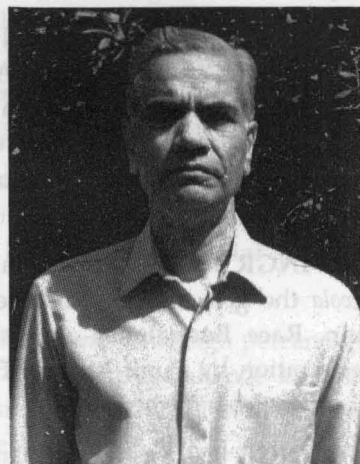


IN MEMORIAM

Dr. M. G. JOSHI

One of our senior life member and an experienced wheat and triticale breeder, associated with Division of Genetics, IARI for more than 40 years, Dr. Madhav Ganesh Joshi, Ex Principal Scientist, passed away on July 4, 2000 at New Delhi. Born on 6th January, 1925 at Belgaum in Karnataka, Joshi graduated with a degree in Agriculture and started his career first as an Air Force Officer for a brief period. He joined his scientific career with ICAR on 26th November, 1952 at IARI Wheat Breeding Station, Indore (M.P.) and then moved to IARI Regional Research Station, Pusa (Bihar) as Assistant Geneticist (Essential Oils). From Pusa (Bihar) he moved to IARI Regional Station, Jamnagar in Gujarat and continued to work on essential oils. To improve his academic career Joshi moved to IARI, New Delhi and submitted his thesis for Associateship (M.Sc.) of IARI on the topic "Inheritance studies in some inter-varietal crosses of wheat" under the guidance of Mr. S. Sen in 1952. After the associateship, he joined the IARI wheat group and was assigned the job of distant hybridization in wheat. In those early days Joshi made some important contributions in the field of inter-generic and inter-specific hybridization. For a brief period he had an opportunity of working on spice crops also where he could make good use of his knowledge of essential oils obtained earlier at Pusa and Jamnagar. Later on Joshi worked for his Ph.D. with Dr. M.S. Swaminathan and obtained degree in 1969 in Genetics and Cytogenetics from IARI on the topic "Genetic affinities and extent of divergence among tetraploid Triticum species and their subspecies". Even after his doctorate, Dr. Joshi continued to work on distant hybridization in wheat and made significant contribution by developing several promising genetic stocks. The wheat component lines developed by Dr. Joshi through inter-specific hybridization got due recognition at national and international fora. The genetic stocks developed by him have been successfully used in efforts to achieve higher yields in wheat through component breeding.



Keeping in view his long experience and thorough knowledge of the subject, Dr. Joshi was later on assigned the challenging task of developing commercially acceptable triticales, a newly introduced crop in India. He successfully developed several basic genetic stocks of triticales with amber coloured grains and combining some other desirable wheat characters like stability to it. Some of the promising genetic stocks developed by Dr. Joshi were later used as base material for developing the only and first ever commercial triticales variety DT 46, released from IARI in 1994. Although Dr. Joshi retired as Principal Scientist in January, 1985 from active service of IARI, he continued to work on an ICAR Emeritus Scheme for few more years and was always in touch with his subject through the symposia and conferences he regularly attended.

An active faculty member and a fine teacher, Dr. Joshi guided several M.Sc. and Ph.D. students and published a large number of research papers in journals of repute. A very mild, soft speaking, humble and gentle person, Dr. Joshi was a dedicated and sincere worker. A person with affectionate smile and helpful nature, he was very popular among the staff and students of the Division of Genetics. A connoisseur of cultural activities, fine arts and music, Dr. Joshi had special liking for classical Karnatik music. A good organiser of cultural programmes, Dr. Madhav Ganesh Joshi was always closely associated with the Pooja festivities, particularly the celebrations of Ganapati Mahotsava at IARI. The Society deeply mourns and condoles the death of one of its active life member.

M. C. KHARKWAL
Secretary, ISG&PB