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PROF. DR. MUHAMMAD SHAMIM JAIRAJPURI

(April 8, 1942- January 10, 2024)

Distinguished Nematologist, an eminent Zoologist, an outstanding scientist, noted scholar and renowned academician of India, Prof. Dr. Jairajpuri, breathed his last in New Delhi on Wednesday, January 10, at age of 82 years.

Pakistan Society of Nematologists deeply saddened by the demise of Prof. Jairajpuri and extends sincere condolence to his family, and wish peace for the departed soul. May Allah give strength to his family and loved ones to bear this loss, Ameen! It is a big loss for Prof Jairajpuri's family, friends, colleagues and students which can never and ever be filled. The faculty members and students of NNRC, University of Karachi share the grief and sorrow felt by his family and prays for a higher place in Jannah. They fondly remembered him for his friendly and compassionate approach towards students and colleagues during his visits to NNRC.

Prof. Jairajpuri was born on April 8, 1942, in Jairajpur village in Uttar Pradesh's Azamgarh district. He completed his higher education (Bachelor's, Master's, and Ph.D.) at Aligarh Muslim University (AMU) and received the Honorary D.Sc. from AMU in 1970 on his outstanding work on Nematology at a young age of 28 years. He started his carrier as a lecturer in the Department of Zoology in the year 1964, reader (1972), and later served as a Professor (1983) and Chairman, Department of Zoology (1988–89 and 1997-1998) and Dean, Faculty of Life Sciences (1993-95 and 1997-98), at AMU, before his retirement in 2004. He served as the Director of the Zoological Survey of India during 1989-1991 as the youngest Director history of ZSI**.** He acted as the Coordinator of the Agriculture Center at AMU and became the Founder Director of the Institute of Agriculture in 1993. He also worked as Principal Nematologist at the prestigious Commonwealth Bureau of Heminthology, UK (which later became International Institute of Parasitology).

Prof. Jairajpuri from Aligarh Muslim University, India had a long association with National Nematological Research Centre (NNRC), University of Karachi. He had been invited at "Second International Training Course on Plant Nematology (20 November- 2 December, 1984)" organized by National Nematological Research Centre, University of Karachi at its premises along with Dr. Joseph A. Veech, Nematologist from USDA, USA. Participants from different agricultural institutions of the country attended the course. The participants received the training on collection of soil samples, isolation/ extraction of nematodes, identification and taxonomy of nematodes, identification of nematode disease symptoms, mechanism of resistance in nematodes and different control measures.

Prof. Jairajpuri attended the "US-PAK First International Workshop on Plant Nematology (6-8 April, 1986)" organized by National Nematological Research Centre, University of Karachi in collaboration with United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) and Pakistan Agriculture Research Council (PARC) at Taj Mahal Hotel, Karachi. The workshop was largely attended by number of participants from Pakistan besides ten delegates from India, Egypt, Poland, USA and Yugoslavia. Prof. Jairajpuri was invited as a resource person in 2007 at two weeks training Workshop on "Nematode Identification (October 22-November 3, 2007)" organized by National Nematological Research Centre, University of Karachi at its premises in collaboration with Dr. Siddiqi, UK. Research students of NNRC and other students from various universities and institutions across the country attended the workshop. Certificates were awarded at the end of course.

Prof. Jairajpuri had done pioneering research on plant and soil nematodes in India. He was a celebrated nematologist with numerous awards and honours. The Zoological Survey of India recognized his contributions by awarding him a gold medal in 1998. Due to his notable works on taxonomy of nematodes (1964-2004), the Government of India, Ministry of Environment and Forests bestowed the first Janaki Ammal National Award for Taxonomy in 1999, making him the first scientist to receive this prestigious award.

In March 2000, the Third World Academy of Sciences, Trieste, Italy elected him as its Fellow and in the same year he got elected as the President of the Indian Society for Parasitology (ISP). He received the "Shiksha Ratna Puruskar", along with a "Certificate of Excellence" in 2007 by the India International Friendship Society (IIFS), New Delhi.Al-Ameen Educational Society, Bangalore (Karnataka) honoured him with the prestigious 'Al-Ameen All India Community Leadership Award for 2009. Prof. Jairajpuri , INSA Scientist in the Zoology Department, Aligarh Muslim University had been felicitated with the Life-time Achievement Award in Helminthology in his 50th year of research (1961-2011) for his monumental research work on Nematodes at the 22nd All India Congress of Zoology organized by the Zoological Society of India at the University of Lucknow. He also served as the founding Vice Chancellor of the Maulana Azad National Urdu University (MANUU), Hyderabad, India (1998-2003). His name will be written in golden words in the history of MANUU.

Prof. Jairajpuri published over 20 textbooks, 400 manuscripts and monograms and contributed numerous book chapters and general articles in reputed journals of the world. He guided many students for M. Phil and Ph.D. degrees. He had travelled widely within India and abroad (USA, UK, Germany, The Netherlands, Belgium, Italy, Australia, Switzerland, Canada, South Korea, Egpyt, Pakistan, Bangladesh) in pursuit of his scientific work and had inaugurated and chaired many national and international conferences, seminars, symposia, workshops etc. Prof. Jairajpuri was Fellow (FNA, FASc, FNASc, FAAS, FISP, FZSI, FZS, FIBOL etc.) of several learned societies of the world. He was the President of the Nematological Society of India (1979 -81), and Chief Editor of the Indian Journal of Nematology (1977-79), Vice President of the Zoological Society (1989-91), and Secretary of the Helminthological Society of India (1978-81). He was on the Editorial Board of a number of national and international journals including Pakistan Journal of Nematology till his death.

Prof. Jairajpuri's legacy is deeply intertwined with the growth of Urdu education and advancement in the field of nematology in India. His death leaves a void in the academic and scientific community, and his contributions will be remembered for years to come. May Allah bless the departed soul through His infinite mercy with eternal peace and give courage and fortitude to her family, friends and the scientific community to bear this irreparable loss, Ameen!

He is survived by his wife Prof. Durdana Jairajpuri and 3 daughters Ms. Sheeba Iqbal Jairajpuri, Ms. Deeba Shamim Jairajpuri and Dr. Zeeba Jairajpuri.

Dr. Abdul Mujeeb Kazi
(1939 – 2024)

With profound sadness, we announce the passing of Dr. Abdul Mujeeb Kazi, former head and a distinguished scientist at the International Maize and Wheat Improvement Center (CIMMYT), who dedicated his life to agricultural research and development. Dr. Kazi passed away in Mexico on Thursday, July 18, 2024, leaving behind a legacy of significant contributions to global food security and sustainable agriculture. May ALLAH shower His blessings and grant him highest place in paradise and gave courage to his aggrieved family to bear this irreparable loss, Ameen!

Born in Sukkur, Pakistan on October 27, 1939, Dr. Kazi earned a Bachelor of Science in Biology in 1960 and a Master of Science in Botany in 1963 from Karachi University in Pakistan. In 1967 he went to the US where he received did Ph.D. in Plant Genetics and Breeding in 1970 from Kansas State University in Manhattan, Kansas. Dr. Kazi pursued his passion for botany, agriculture and genetics from a young age. His journey with CIMMYT, a center launched through a Rockefeller Foundation agricultural program in Mexico, began in 1979. He spent over 35 years working alongside Nobel Peace Prize Laureate for the Green Revolution, Dr. Norman Borlaug, directing CIMMYT's Wheat Wide Crosses Unit. A key figure in innovative wheat breeding techniques, Dr. Kazi developed more than 50 high-yielding, drought-resilient and disease-resistant wheat varieties and contributed to hundreds more to meet global food and nutrition needs. He utilized wild grass biodiversity for wheat improvement and led synthetic wheat research at CIMMYT,where working with genes found in million-year-old grass species helped scientists multiply the genetic diversity of wheat. Dr. Kazi's work remains instrumental in addressing the challenges posed by climate change, pests, and diseases that threaten global food supplies and improving food and nutrition security and has contributed to increased global wheat production by over 200 million tons, directly benefiting millions of people around the world during his lifetime.

Dr. Kazi served the science and agriculture before and after his retirement not only as a world-class researcher and scholar, but in multiple efforts as a member of his profession. Dr. Kazi was a trusted agricultural and scientific advisor to governments around the world and served as Senior Scientific Officer at the Pakistan Atomic Energy Commission where he utilized nuclear technology to improve the productivity of Pakistan's agricultural sector. He also was a lecturer at Adamjee Government Science College in Pakistan, research geneticist at Kansas State University and fellow and lecturer at Texas A & M in the United States. Dr. Kazi had trained young professionals, guided students, lectured, published prolifically and shared the genetic outputs of his research with everyone in the world. Throughout his career, he received numerous awards and recognitions, including the King Baudouin Award, the highest CGIAR science prize that recognizes the outstanding achievements of a scientist within the CGIAR system, and awards from the Crop Science Society of America, American Society of Agronomy and Kansas State University. He was a member of the Crop Sciences Society of America, the American Society of Agronomy, Mexican Society of Sciences, Genetics Society of Canada, The World Academy of Sciences and foreign fellow of the Pakistan Academy of Sciences.

Dr. Kazi was a class-mate and best friend of Dr. Maqbool and had a long-standing association with National Nematological Research Centre (NNRC), University of Karachi. Dr. Kazi had been invited at "National Symposium on Plant Nematology (7-9, January, 2002)" organized by National Nematological Research Centre, University of Karachi at NIPA, Karachi. Whenever, he came to Karachi he always met us with love and kind-hearted friendship which was a characteristic of his personality and showed keen interest in mutual collaboration in molecular work. In this regard three Ph.D. students of NNRC received training on molecular techniques by using markers for screening wheat germplasm against nematodes, double haploid breeding and cytogenetics under the supervision of eminent international wheat scientist Dr. Mujeeb A. Kazi at the "Wheat Wide Crosses" Labs, National Agricultural Research Centre (NARC), Islamabad.

Dr. Kazi is the son of Khan Bahadur Abdul Rahim Kazi and Mumtaz Begum Kazi. Throughout his prestigious career, he remained a devoted family man and survived by family members Nighat Kazi, whom he was married to for 41 years, three daughters Nabeeha Kazi and her husband Coleman, Nausheen Kazi and her husband Andrew, Naureen Kazi and her husband Ramon, and five grandchildren, Iman, Sanah, Zahra, Coleman and Alia who will continue to honor his memory and dedication to improving the world through science. May Allah bestow His countless blessings upon him? Dr. Kazi's absence will be deeply felt by his colleagues, friends and the global scientific community.

Dr. Soomro attended the "2024 IEEE Belt and Road Congress on AI for Sustainable Development (AICON)

Dr. Manzoor H. Soomro, Advisor and Founder President of ECO Science Foundation, Vice President of Fellow and Council Member, Academy of Engineering and Technology for the Developing World, Honorary Professor, BTBU and CAU for Beijing, China, attended as a Keynote speaker and gave an informative oral presentation in a International Congress held on Artificial Intelligence for Sustainable Development at Hangzhou, China on June 23-24, 2004. The congress was jointly organized by the Chinese Association for Artificial Intelligence (CAAI) and IEEF at Hangzhou, Zhejiang province, China, under the Academy of Engineering and Technology for the Developing World (AETDEW) and ECO Science Foundation (ECOSF).

Government officials, heads of scientific research institutes and enterprises, and guests from social organizations from countries related to the Belt and Road Initiative participated with the aim to build a cooperation network around the data intelligence framework, and promote the sustainable development of general artificial intelligence along the Belt and Road Initiative.

FUTURE EVENTS

10 – 11 September, 2024

6th Symposium of Potato Cyst Nematode Management, hosted online at Harper Adams University, UK

The conference is organized by Matthew Back and Kasia Dybal on behalf of the AAB Nematology Group. The 6th Symposium of Potato Cyst Nematode Management will cover many aspects, including international distribution, genetic diversity, sampling and decision making, population dynamics, diagnostics, integrated management, biology and application of resistance, use of effectors, rotational control, chemical control, biological control and novel control methods such as RNAi and biofumigation.

Submission deadline: December 31st, 2024
Registration for online delegates: Closes on September 11th 2024 (credit card payments only after August 20th)
Contact aab (Association of Applied Biologists)
Website: https://www.aab.org.uk
Email: AAB Nematology Group@aab_nematology

19 - 11 October, 2024

17th Nematological Event: Symposium-cum-workshop on "Advances in Nematology and Emerging Threats", National Nematological Research Cent, University of Karachi.

Abstract Submission: 25 August, 2024
Submission of Registration form: 6th September, 2024
Submission of Registration fee: 15th September, 2024
Contact: Dr. Erum Iqbal, Vice President, PSN
Contact #: 02199261387, 03343857892
Email: nnrc@uok.edu.pk
Website: www.pjn.com.pk

5 December, 2024

Advances in Nematology, 2024, a single-day hybrid event, hosted online at The Linnean Society, London.
The event is hosted by the Association of Applied Biologists Nematology Specialist Group, covering all the applied biology of Nematology (molecular biology of nematodes or hosts, ecology, epidemiology, management of plant-parasitic nematodes, entomopathogenic nematodes and emerging diagnostic methods).
Abstract Submission: 23 September, 2024
Website: https://cvent.me/99Y4ok