

Obituary



The Indian Society of Pulses Research and Development (ISPRD), Kanpur, India, mourns the sad demise of Dr. Shankar Lal (1938-2022), who left us for his heavenly abode on Sep 27, 2022 in the early morning. A native of village Ingurri, district Etawah in Uttar Pradesh, Dr. Lal was the Founder Director of the ICAR - Indian Institute of Pulses Research, Kanpur. Holding a brilliant academic and service record, he was an excellent teacher, renowned researcher and an outstanding research manager, and possessed a pleasant and humorous personality. Starting his service career as a lecturer in Agricultural Botany, he served three state agricultural universities viz., CSA University of Agriculture and Technology, Kanpur, CCS Haryana Agricultural University, Hisar and Acharya Narendra Dev University of Agriculture and Technology, Ayodhya in various capacities. He also served ICAR-Indian Agricultural Research Institute, New Delhi as Geneticist (Pulses) (1973-77) and Facilitator (1995-98), Indian Council of Agricultural Research, New Delhi as Assistant Director General (Crop Sciences) (1983-87) and Indian Institute of Pulses research, Kanpur as Director (1987-95). After superannuation, Dr. Lal served U.P. Council of Agricultural Research, Lucknow as Deputy Director General (RMP), Govt. of India as National Consultant (Seeds) under National Food Security Mission and Guest Faculty (Seed Technology), CSAUAT, Kanpur.

Dr. Lal made significant contributions in development of crop varieties evolving four varieties of vegetables and 9 of pulses, all of which were highly popular among the farmers in India and abroad. he had a special empathy about pulses and he always strived for their upliftment through his research as well as mentorship. He was one of the Founder Members of the Indian Society of Pulses Research and Development and this Society always remained close to his heart. He was also honoured with ISPRD Life time Achievement Award in 1994 for his outstanding contributions in the field of pulses and decorated with several other awards and accolades including Dr. Dharm Pal Singh Life Time Achievement Award, 2015.

Dr. Shankar Lal authored several popular books and was completing another writing assignment of one more book even in his last time, thus proving his love with studies and education. He remained a voracious reader and writer throughout his life and was a great nature lover with an exceptional acquaintance of flora and fauna.

His memories will remain alive with the Indian Society of Pulses Research and Development and in the hearts of pulses' researchers globally. The entire ISPRD family prays for peace to his noble soul and to the Almighty to bless all his beloved ones with courage to bear this irreparable loss.

Aditya Pratap
Secretary, ISPRD