

OBITUARY



Professor S.K. Sinha (1934-2002)

Professor S.K. Sinha, an illustrious plant physiologist, was born on 18 July, 1934 in Distt. Bulandshahr in U.P. He did his Ph.D in Botany from Agra University and Ph.D in Biochemistry from University of Alberta, Canada. Dr. Sinha joined ICAR service in 1966 at the Central Tuber Crops Research Institute, Thiruvananthapuram and moved to IARI in 1969 as Plant Physiologist. He was Professor of Eminence from 1978 to 1991, Director, IARI from 1991 to 1994 and ICAR National Professor from 1995 to 1999. Prof. Sinha achieved his distinguished stature by hard-driven research. The unique feature of Prof. Sinha is the extraordinary breadth of his interests and his ability to think laterally and originally about many issues in plant sciences.

Prof. Sinha was an original thinker, a visionary and gave many new concepts in plant metabolism, physiological genetics, drought resistance and fruit ripening. He was also associated with research on the impact of global climate change on agricultural production. Prof. Sinha made major impact in establishing the importance of plant physiology in agricultural research in India and other third world countries.

He received several honours and awards including O.P. Bhasin Award, the VASVIK Award and the FICCI Award, to mention a few. He delivered the Jawaharlal Nehru Award Lecture of the Indian Science Congress at Kolkata. He was elected fellow of prestigious science academies. He was a renowned scientist of national and international repute. He was invited to be in the editorial board of leading national and international journals. He was a member of several international committees, specially on climate change and of national committees like TIFAC, several governing bodies and scientific advisory committees of national institutes and chairman of the tenth five-year plan of the Planning Commission Sub-Committee on Agriculture.

Prof. Sinha was a man of great integrity and probity in public life. His single minded devotion to the science and sincerity in discharging his duties made him the rarest of the rare amongst the scientists on the scene in the country.

Prof. Sinha's journey in life ended on March 17, 2002 due to heart failure. He is survived by his wife Mrs. Shyama Kumari Sinha and three married daughters Mrs. Archana, Kalpana and Sadhana. Though he is no more among us, his memories will always be our precious treasure and serve as a source of inspiration to all up-coming plant physiologists.

G.C. Srivastava and M.C. Ghildiyal