

OBITUARY



Z. A. Munshi
(1920—1975)

Mr. Zainul Abedin Munshi, Deputy Secretary (Agriculture), Government of Sind, Pakistan, expired after a long illness on June 7, 1975. Pakistan is deprived of an honest and enthusiastic research worker and an elegant botanist. Mr. Munshi was born in Hansot (Bombay) in 1920. He obtained his entire education from Bombay University leading to B.Sc. (Agriculture). He continued for post graduate program and worked on a thesis entitled "Inheritance studies in *Sorghum vulgare*," and obtained the M.Sc. (Agriculture) in Botany and Plant Breeding from the same institution.

Mr. Munshi started his practical career in agriculture as a cotton breeder in Gujrat (British India) under Professor G.B. Patel's guidance. After partition of India, Mr. Munshi migrated to Pakistan and joined as Assistant Professor of Botany at the King George Vth Institute of Agriculture, Sakrand. This institute got shifted to Tandojam under a new nomenclature of Sind Agriculture College and Research Institute Tandojam where he continued his teaching and research. In 1956, he was promoted to the post of Associate Professor of botany and was also given an additional charge of wheat botanist.

Mr. Munshi travelled far and wide in various Govt. assignments to Australia (1955-56) Canada and U.S.A. (1959) Egypt and Italy (1960-61). In 1962, he was sponsored for a special training in wheat breeding and agronomy

at CIMMYT, Mexico. Mr. Munshi and his colleagues in Mexico, negotiated the terms and conditions under which 24000 tons of Mexi-Pak, a high yielding wheat variety, was introduced in Pakistan. In Mexico, he worked with the nobel prize winner for green revolution, Dr. Norman E. Borlaug. On his return in 1963, Mr. Munshi was promoted to the post of Professor of Botany with an additional charge of wheat botanist at Agriculture College and Research Institute, Tandojam. When Sind Agriculture College Tandojam became a semi-autonomous organization under the control of Board of Governors in 1965, Mr. Munshi opted for research wing and got fully engaged in wheat breeding research as Wheat Botanist, Agriculture Research Institute Tandojam. His many publications in various scientific journals of national and international repute and his wheat varieties H68, TJ 558, Mexi Pak 65 and Pak 70 gave Z.A. a continuous enthusiasm for future developmental research. He was appointed as Director of Research, Agriculture Research Institute Tandojam and then promoted as Deputy Secretary (Agriculture), Government of Sind.

His qualities as an outstanding worker played a vital role in the efficiency of his workers with a new spirit of marshalling the research programs. Sind Department of Agriculture has certainly lost an eminent scientist and an excellent research worker. He is survived by his wife and seven children.

May God Almighty bestow the late an eternal peace. Amin.

BARKAT ALI SOOMRO
Department of Botany & Plant Breeding
Sind Agriculture College
Tandojam, Pakistan.