

*Obituary*

**DR. ABDUL GHAFOOR KAUSAR**  
**1923 – 1980**



Dr. Abdul Ghafoor Kausar died of heart attack at his home in Faisalabad, Pakistan, on 8th September, 1980. May God Almighty shower His blessing upon the departed soul. Amen.

Dr. Kausar was born on May, 5, 1923. He received the B.Sc. degree in Agriculture in 1943 from the University of the Punjab with First Class First and was awarded Sir Louis Dane Gold Medal for the distinction. He worked as a Research Associate with Dr. A. Sattar in the Division of Plant Pathology, Punjab Agriculture College and Research Institute, Lyallpur (Faisalabad) before he was selected for overseas studies in 1947 by the Central Government of British India. He obtained the Ph.D. degree in 1951 from the University of Minnesota, U.S.A., with major in Plant Pathology and minor in Plant Genetics. For his doctorate Thesis Dr. Kausar worked on the biology of *Dendrophoma obscurans* under the supervision of Prof. Dr. E.C. Stakman. At Minnesota Dr. Kausar also came under the influence of Dr. H.K. Hays, Dr. C.C. Christensen, Dr. J.J. Christensen and Dr. Helen Hart. He was nominated full member of the Society of Sigma XI (Minnesota Chapter) in recognition of his scientific achievements.

On his return from USA, Dr. Kausar served the Department of Plant Protection, Ministry of Agriculture, Government of Pakistan, Karachi from 1951-1957 as Systematic Mycologist and Plant Pathologist. He laid the foundation for the establishment of National Mycological Herbarium, developed a post graduate course in Systematic Mycology, organized large scale campaign for seed treatment and control of weeds by aerial spraying and initiated research projects for investigation of cereal rusts and groundnut diseases.

In 1957, Dr. Kausar moved to Faisalabad where he remained the rest of his life. Dr. Kausar served the Punjab Agriculture College and Research Institute, Lyallpur, his Alma Mater (1957-62) as Plant Pathologist and Head of the Plant Pathology Division where he had started his research career 14 years ago. Dr. Kausar remained associated with the University of Agriculture Faisalabad since its inception. He assisted in the preparation of a 4 volume report on the Agriculture University for the World Bank Team in 1962. He was Associate Professor (1962) and moved to the rank of Professor of Plant Pathology (1964) and attracted many students and investigators.

During the tenure of his service in the University of Agriculture, Faisalabad, Dr. Kausar held a series of important administrative and other assignments. As Head Department of Plant Pathology (1962-70, 1973-75, 1978-80), Registrar (1964), Dean, Faculty of Agriculture (1970-74), Director of Advanced Studies and Research (1973-77), Member of the University Syndicate (1970-73), Senate (1976-80), Acting Vice Chancellor (1976) and as member of various academic bodies of the University, the National Science Council (1973-76), University Grant Commission Study Group on examination system (1974-75), Agricultural Pesticide Technical Advisory Committee (1972-77) and member of the Technical Committee of Pakistan Agricultural Research Council and Pakistan Science Foundation, the scientific leadership of Dr. Kausar was of the highest order. Dr. Kausar was an active member of many scientific societies like Pakistan Botanical Society and member of its Editorial Board, American Phytopathological Society, Pakistan Scientific Society (President Biology Section, 1966; Agriculture Section, 1971), Pakistan Association for the Advancement of Science (President Agricultural Section, 1973) and Pakistan Association for the Advancement of Agricultural Sciences. He was Editor-in-Chief of Pakistan Journal of Agriculture Science (1964-72). Dr. Kausar was elected Fellow of Pakistan Academy of Sciences in 1977.

The burdens of administration and other manifold responsibilities did not cloud his interest for teaching and research. Dr. Kausar always kept himself abreast of the latest development and researches in all aspects of Plant Pathology. Although he was interested in the broad areas of plant diseases, Dr. Kausar specialised in the epidemiology of gram blight, selection of gram varieties resistant to blight and wilt, genetics of smut fungi, seed-borne fungi and fungicides for their control and organisms associated with root rot of cotton. Dr. Kausar published more than 76 scientific papers.

Dr. Kausar was an indefatigable worker always urging students and fellow workers to excel in the studies and research projects. His counsel and advice were valued by his colleagues. He was greatly respected, appreciated and kept in high esteem not only by his students but by all who knew him. He was an excellent teacher, a good friend and a gentleman.