

Obituary

Prof Dr Habib Ahmad (1959-2021)



Professor Dr. Habib Ahmad left for his heavenly abode on 7th April 2021. He was an eminent Botanist, an excellent researcher (Cyto-geneticist), a very good teacher and above all a noble Human Being. He was born on 13th July 1959 in Matta, Swat. He passed his SSC & FSc from Matta, Swat and BSc from Jahanzeb College Saidu Sharif, Swat in 1982. He got his MSc and MPhil degrees from Department of Botany, University of Peshawar in the years 1985 and 1991, respectively. He did his PhD from University of the Punjab Lahore in 2003. He served in various capacities including *Scientific Officer*, Cytogenetics Program NARC, Islamabad (1986-1990), *Lecturer Botany* Higher Education Department, Khyber Pakhtunkhwa (1990-2002), *Technical Coordinator* WWF-Pakistan (2002-2005), *Professor of Botany*, Hazara University (2005-2010), *Dean of Sciences* Hazara University (2013-2016) and *Chairman Botany & Genetics* (2006-2010) *Tenured Professor of Genetics*, Hazara University (2010 - 2019), and *Professor Emeritus of Genetics*, Hazara University (2019 - 2021). He also served as *Vice Chancellor*, Islamia College Peshawar (2016 to 2020), *Vice Chancellor*, Hazara University (2015-2016).

Prof. Habib Ahmad introduced a Rapeseed Variety 'Hasnain-2013', approved by the Seed Council Government of KPK which is now widely sown as a popular rapeseed variety in Pakistan. He completed 28 research projects, supervised 47 PhD, 148 MPhil & 84 MSc/BS students, published 325 research papers, 51 Book chapters/monographs and explored 35 New Genes/Nucleotide Sequences.

Prof. Ahmad was the recipient of numerous awards including civil award, Tamgha-e-Imtiaz (2010), KP R&D efforts award (2015), PAS Gold Medal (2019), HEC Best Teacher Award (2015), Productive Scientist of Pakistan

Award (2011, 2012, 2013, 2014, 2015 & 2016), IBC Cambridge Leading Scientist Award 2011, UNESCO Teacher of the Year Award 2007, and Best Researcher of Hazara University Award 2006.

He was an elected Fellow of the Pakistan Academy of Sciences, President Pakistan Botanical Society, President Society Conservation Biology of Pakistan, Chief Patron Crying Sky Ambassadors Kennesaw State University (CSA-Pakistan Chapter). Besides this he was a member of number of learned societies to name a few, member of many national as well as international scientific societies including International Association for Plant Biotechnology (UK), Pak-US Working Group for Science and Technology (Biology/Biotech), Biotech Advisory Committee, DoST Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, National Core Group in Genetics, Government of Pakistan, Member: Board of Directors Society of Conservation Biology (USA), Genetics Society of America (USA), International Association of Ecology (USA), Society of Conservation Biology (Asian Group), Society of Conservation Biology (North America), Genetics Society of Pakistan, Ethnobotanical Association of Pakistan, Weed Science Society of Pakistan, Environmental Protection Society Swat, Board of Advisors Ethnobotany Project, WWF.

He was a candle light for many in the field of education and research, especially, the deprived masses of the society. We are sure that all his students and followers will take his noble cause ahead in the society to educate people and work for the welfare of people. He is survived by his widow, a son and five daughters and large number of students and colleagues. May ALLAH shower His blessings and grant him highest place in paradise. Aamin summa Aamin!

Shujaul Mulk Khan and Khan Bahadar Marwat