

OBITUARY



DR. MANZUR AHMED BAJWA (1931-1993)

Dr. Manzur Ahmed Bajwa, an eminent scientist, breathed his last on 16th June 1993 due to heart failure at the Combined Military Hospital, Rawalpindi. May God Almighty shower His choicest blessings upon the departed soul. Ameen.

Dr. Bajwa was born on 6th March 1931 at Lyallpur (now Faisalabad). He obtained his M.Sc. (Agric.) degree in 1954 from the University of the Punjab, Lahore and the Ph.D. degree in 1958 from North Dakota State University, Fargo, U.S.A. The title of his dissertation was "Allelic analysis of fertility restorer genes in sterile cytoplasm of *Triticum timopheevi*".

Dr. Bajwa started his scientific career as an Agricultural Assistant on 1st May, 1953. He stepped through various positions of Assistant Botanist, Economic Botanist and Director, Wheat Research Institute, Faisalabad from 1958 to 1985. Dr. Bajwa was selected as an Agronomist/Agricultural Advisor/Director Research, Kufra Production Project Libya from January, 1973 to August, 1978 to determine suitable crop varieties for the south eastern part of Libyan desert, and to provide package of technology for obtaining maximum production. He established a research station and trained local staff. Besides Dr. Bajwa also identified suitable varieties of various crops that could grow successfully under harsh desert environment. Dr. Bajwa was promoted as Director General, Agricultural Research at Ayub Agricultural Research Institute, Faisalabad on 26th August, 1985. He accepted this challenging assignment and continued to serve until retirement on 16th March 1991. In recognition of his services for agricultural research and development, Dr. Bajwa was honoured and appointed as Scientist Emeritus. Dr. Bajwa was awarded Dr. Borlaug's Medal for Agricultural Research (1984) and Wheat Production Medal from CIMMYT, Mexico.

Dr. Bajwa has published more than 100 scientific research papers and has kindled a wide ranging interest in wheat research. He has released many high yielding varieties of wheat and other crops to overcome the food shortage problem.

The versatile genius of Dr. Bajwa was always bent on widening the frontiers of knowledge. He was gifted with many qualities of head and heart and was a God-fearing

person. Dr. Bajwa was always prepared to ask for forgiveness even from his junior colleagues if he realised that he was amiss. He had a captivating personality and had the knack of getting along with persons of all shades of opinion. He was that rare combination of brilliant research scientist, stimulating and effective teacher and superbly organized and efficient administrator. Apart from good scientist and administrator, Dr. Bajwa was a good player of hockey. He represented Pakistan Hockey Team which won the Gold Medal in the 3rd Asian games held at Tokyo, Japan in 1958.

Dr. Bajwa's sudden demise is an irreparable loss for his friends, family members and the country. His death is a great personal loss to me. I used to meet Dr. Bajwa very frequently and freely discussed various aspects of wheat breeding and genetics. May almighty Allah give us courage and grant the bereaved family the fortitude to bear this irreparable loss. Dr. Bajwa was a charming person and a very good muslim. He was a friend in misery and his sublime memories still persist in our hearts. Dr. Bajwa is survived by his wife, three daughters and two sons.

(DR. KHUSHNOOD A. SIDDIQUI)

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