

OBITUARY



Dr. Abdul Kafi
(15 July 1929 to 19 May 2009)

Dr. Abdul Kafi, an eminent Mycologist & Plant Pathologist died on 19 May, 2009 due to lungs infection. May God Almighty shower His choicest blessings upon the departed soul and may his soul rest in peace in heaven. May God Almighty also give enough strength to members of his family and friends to bear the loss.

Dr. Abdul Kafi s/o Mr. Abdul Ghani was born on 15 January 1929 at Badayun, India. He received his early education at Lucknow in India. He obtained the B.Sc degree in 1946 from Lucknow Christian College, M.Sc in 1948 from Muslim University Aligarh and Ph.D in 1960 in Botany Plant Pathology from the University of Exeter, England for his work on **“Studies on certain graminicolous species of *Helminthosporium* occurring in tropical and subtropical areas”**. Dr. Kafi has more than 37 years experience of research and extension work in the field of Mycology & Plant Pathology. Dr. Kafi started his career as Mycologist/Plant Pathologist in the Department of Plant Protection, Ministry of Agriculture, Government of Pakistan, Karachi in 1952 and rose to the post of Plant Protection Advisor & Director General. Dr. Kafi retired on 15 July 1989.

Dr. Abdul Kafi was much more involved in the maintenance of National Mycological Herbarium, enforcement of Plant Quarantine Rules & Regulations, interception of exotic pests and diseases, testing and treatment of incoming plant material, survey of potential locust breeding areas, large scale control measures by ground and aerial spray for the control of locusts and other pests and diseases.

Dr. Abdul Kafi has travelled in many countries of the world by representing Pakistan in various meetings, conferences seminars and symposia particularly in the field of Plant Pathology, Plant Quarantine and locusts. He has also been involved in the implementation of Agriculture Pesticide Ordinance 1971 and advising the central Government in the control of pests and diseases.

For a period of time Dr. Kafi remained university examiner, member of selection committee of the University of Karachi including National Nematological Research Institute and Jamshoro Agricultural Research University for MSc, M Phil and Ph D degrees in Botany, Nematology and Plant Pathology. He was also the member of selection committee for the appointment of lecturers and Assistant Professors in the University of Karachi.

(Abdul Ghaffar)
Professor (Retd.)
Department of Botany,
University of Karachi, Karachi Pakistan.