

OBITUARY



DR. MOHAMMAD ASLAM
(1938-2002)

Dr. Mohammad Aslam, an eminent Plant Pathologist of Pakistan, died of heart failure on 29 May 2002. He was buried at Haripur. May God Almighty shower His choicest blessings upon the departed soul and may his soul rest in peace in heaven. Amen.

Dr. Mohammad Aslam s/o Mr. Khalil Dad Khan was born on 1st January 1938 at Dhudial, Mansehra, NWFP, Pakistan. He obtained his early education at Mansehra and B.Sc degree in Agriculture from the Islamia College, University of Peshawar (1956). He worked with Prof. Lewis E. Browder at the Department of Plant Pathology, Kansas State University, Manhattan, Kansas, USA and was awarded the degree of Ph.D (1972) for his work on "Aggressiveness in *Puccinia recondita* f.sp. *tritici*". Dr. Aslam also received Alexander von Humboldt Post Doctoral research fellowship (1978-1980) and worked with Dr. E. Sdhwarzbach at the University of Munchen, Germany on "Specificity of quantitative interactions between isolates of *Puccinia hordei* and barley cultivars". Under the Royal Society of London Fellowship (1996), Dr. Aslam worked at the National Institute of Agricultural Botany, Cambridge, UK, with Dr. R.A. Bayles on "Genetic analysis of spring wheat cultivars for resistance to yellow rust through multipathotype testing".

Dr. M. Aslam started his career as a Farm Manager at Haripur, Hazara (1958-59) and then joined the Department of Plant Pathology, Agricultural Research Institute, Tarnab, Peshawar (1959-1981) before becoming the Director of Crop Diseases Research Institute, Islamabad (1981-1996), Deputy Director General, Pakistan Agricultural Research Council, Islamabad (1997) until his retirement in 1999. Dr. Aslam is well known for his work on genetic relationships in wheat against rusts, smuts, powdery mildew and foliar diseases; host-parasite systems specially identification of sources of resistance, epidemiology of cereal rusts, transfer of rust resistance from related alien species into bread wheat.

Dr. Aslam was a member of American Phytopathological Society, British Society of Plant Pathology, Pakistan Botanical Society, Founding member of the Pakistan Society of Nematologists. Dr. Aslam was a widely travelled Plant Pathologist and apart from delivering lectures in scientific meetings and conferences in different parts of Pakistan,

he also presented scientific papers at Plant Pathology Congress at Kyoto (Japan), Melbourne (Australia) etc. Dr. Aslam has published <200 scientific papers in journals of international repute,

Dr. Aslam has left behind his wife, a son, 3 daughters besides a large number of his friends and associates to mourn the loss.

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(Received for publication 17 May 2004)