



Obituary



Dr. S.R. Poonia
(October 1, 1942 to April 12, 2019)

It is with great grief and sorrow that members of the Indian Society of Soil Science are deeply saddened on demise of Dr. S.R. Poonia, the revered former Dean, College of Agriculture, CCS Haryana Agricultural University (HAU), Hisar. He breathed his last in Noida, Uttar Pradesh on 12th April, 2019 at 7:30 A.M. He was a distinguished and eminent scientist and helping human being.

Dr. S.R. Poonia, son of Shri Bhajan Lal Poonia, was born on 1st October, 1942 at the village Rampura, District Ferozepur, Punjab. He did his M.Sc. and Ph.D. from Punjab Agricultural University, Ludhiana under the guidance of Dr. D.R. Bhumbra, a pioneer in the field of Soil Science. After doing his doctorate in Soil Science, he started his career as Assistant Soil Chemist at HAU, Hisar on 14th August, 1970. Thereafter, he was selected as Associate Professor on 4th June 1976 as a result of his scientific acumen, and further rose to become National Fellow on 17th June 1980.

He was a man with new thoughts in the field of research, with main emphasis on basic research in soil science. He guided many post graduate students and always encouraged them to do good work. He contributed several research papers in peer reviewed journals of international and national repute. He was invited from various places to deliver special lectures. His field of research was soil chemistry, with specialization in cation exchange and absorption-desorption of heavy metals. He remained Head of the Department of Soil Science, CCS HAU from 3rd April, 1992 to 2nd April, 1995. He served the College of Agriculture as Dean from 23rd October, 1997 to 22nd October, 2000. During his tenure, he brought several laurels to the Department. To name a few, he was a recipient of Rafi Ahmad Kidwai Award, National Fellow, Fellow NAAS, Fellow ISSS, and Emeritus Scientist. Dr. Poonia visited UK under UNDP programme and Germany under AvH Fellowship. Several projects were formulated, monitored and completed at the department under his active guidance. In true sense, a real tribute to such an eminent scientist is to follow his footsteps by doing hard work.

For the last few months, Dr. Poonia was not keeping good health. He left behind one son and two daughters, who are all well established. He was a great thinker with scientific aptitude and his passing away has created a void which is very difficult to be fulfilled. Today in the moment of great sorrow, members of the Indian Society of Soil Science (ISSS), particularly the Hisar, Chapter of ISSS pays their homage to Dr. S.R. Poonia and remembers him with gratitude. We are deeply saddened by the loss of Dr. Poonia. He will be truly missed by the entire fraternity of the ISSS family. All the members of ISSS pray to the Almighty to grant peace to the departed soul and grant enough strength to the bereaved family to bear this irreparable loss.