



## Obituary

### Prof. Dr. Muhammad Arshad (1956–2016)

Prof. Dr. Muhammad Arshad was born on April 1, 1956 in Faisalabad, Pakistan. He did his PhD in Soil Microbiology and Biochemistry from the University of California, Riverside, CA, USA. Dr. Arshad had his entire professional career at University of Agriculture, Faisalabad (UAF) where he served as Director, Institute of Soil and Environmental Sciences; Director, Centre of Agricultural Biochemistry and Biotechnology; Director of Centre for Advance Studies in Applied Genetics and Saline Agriculture; and Senior Tutor. Dr Arshad also served as Editor-in-Chief of Pakistan Journal of Soil Science and as elected President of Soil Science Society of Pakistan, twice, and President of ECP.

Currently, Professor Arshad was serving as Dean, Faculty of Agriculture, University of Agriculture, Faisalabad. Overall, he had more than 37 years experience of teaching and research.

Dr. Arshad had authored/co-authored 4 books (3 published by international publishers and one by national publisher), 11 book chapters, and 155 research articles in foreign refereed journals – with over 300 Impact Factor and more than 2000 citations (ISI Web of Science). He produced 20 PhD scholars as major supervisor and executed 12 research projects, as Principal Investigator, funded by international and national funding agencies.

Innovative scientific contributions and effective writings of Dr. Arshad brought him many national and international honors and awards, like “Best Scientist in Agriculture for the year 2001” by the Pakistan Academy of Sciences; “Best University Teacher for the year 2003” by Higher Education Commission (HEC); National Civil Award “*Tamgha-i-Imtiaz*” 2005 by Government of Pakistan; and best performance shield by the

President of Pakistan. Dr. Arshad was honored as Fellow of Soil Science Society of Pakistan in 2006 and by TWAS Prize in Agriculture Sciences for 2007. Recently, he was decorated by HEC as “Distinguished National Professor” for the year 2015-16. He was a recipient of Research Productivity Award throughout. In short, Prof. Arshad was a well recognized scientist in the field of Agriculture and Environment.



In November 2015, Prof. Arshad was elected as Fellow of Pakistan Academy of Sciences; however, he expired prior to his induction as Fellow, which was scheduled towards the end of year 2016. In entire history of the Academy, Prof. Arshad was the second Fellow-elect who left this world prior to induction as Fellow; incidentally, the earlier one was also an agricultural scientist, Dr Abdus Sattar, Chief Scientific Officer & Director of Nuclear Institute for Food & Agriculture (NIFA), Peshawar who was elected in year 2000.

Dr. Arshad was a kind person. He possessed a pleasing personality, and was an amicable colleague and supervisor. In his demise Pakistan has lost a statwart agricultural scientist.

May Allah Almighty bless the departed soul with eternal peace; and give fortitude to his family to bear this irreparable loss! Aameen.

**Dr. Abdul Rashid, FPAS**