



## **Obituary**

### **Prof. Dr. Habib Ahmad (1959-2021)**

The remarkable Prof. Dr. Habib Ahmad left this mortal world on 7<sup>th</sup> April 2021 for his journey to the hereafter. He was an Eminent Scientist, Distinct Teacher, great Cyto-geneticist, eminent Plant Taxonomist, Fellow of the Pakistan Academy of Sciences, and above all a best Human Being. He was serving as Professor Emeritus of Genetics in the Department of Genetics, Hazara University Mansehra Pakistan. He was born on 13th July 1959 in Matta Swat in the home of his father Muhammad Saeed (known as Srae Mulvi Seb)—the first teacher of the Swat State and a pronounced philanthropist and educationist in the era of Swat State. He passed his SSC & FSc from Matta Swat and BSc from the historical Post Graduate Jahanzeb College Saidu Sharif Swat in 1982. He got his MSc and MPhil degrees from the Department of Botany, University of Peshawar in the years 1985 and 1991, respectively. He did his Ph.D. from the University of the Punjab Lahore in 2003. He remained on various positions including Scientific Officer, Cytogenetics Program NARC, Islamabad (1986 - 1990), Lecturer Botany Higher Education Department, Khyber Pakhtunkhwa (1990 - 2002), Technical Coordinator WWF-Pakistan (2002 - 2005), Professor of Botany, Hazara University (2005 - 2010), Tenured Professor of Genetics, Hazara University (2010 - 2019), and Professor Emeritus of Genetics, Hazara University (2019 - 2021). He also remained Vice Chancellor, Islamia College Peshawar (2016 to 2020), Vice Chancellor, Hazara University (2015 - 2016), Dean of Sciences Hazara University (2006 - 2010 & 2013 – 2016), and Chairman Botany & Genetics (2006-2010).

Based on his MPhil and Ph.D. studies and the initial job at NARC, he was able to introduce a Rapeseed Variety 'Hasnain-2013' that was approved by the Seed Council Government of KPK on March 5, 2013. This variety is being sown widely in Pakistan and is one of the popular rapeseed variety in Pakistan. He completed 28 research projects, supervised 47 Ph.D., 148 MPhil & 84 MSc/BS

students, published 325 journal research articles, 51 Book chapters/monographs & more than 100 abstracts, and explored 35 New Genes/ Nucleotide Sequences in his career. He visited more than 15 different countries in

the world for various academic purposes. One of his collaborative research projects with US researchers 'Ethnogenetic elaboration of NWFP through dental morphology and DNA analysis' gave rise to one of his prominent research articles in the prestigious journal of Science (IF = 41.84) titled "The first horse herders and the impact of early Bronze Age steppe expansions into Asia".



For his splendid research career, he was awarded the Presidential award Tamgha-e-Imtiaz (2010), KP R&D efforts award (2015), PAS Gold Medal (2019), HEC Best Teacher Award (2015), Productive Scientist of Pakistan Award (2011, 2012, 2013, 2014, 2015 & 2016), IBC Cambridge Leading Scientist Award 2011, UNESCO Teacher of the Year Award 2007, and Best Researcher of Hazara University Award 2006. He remained Fellow of the Pakistan Academy of Sciences, President Pakistan Botanical Society, President Society Conservation Biology of Pakistan, Chief Patron Crying Sky Ambassadors Kennesaw State University (CSA-Pakistan Chapter), Honorary Fellow Zoological Society of Pakistan, member of many national as well as international scientific societies including International Association for Plant Biotechnology (UK), Pak-US Working Group for Science and Technology (Biology/Biotech), Biotech Advisory Committee, DoST Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, National Core Group in Genetics, Government of Pakistan, National Testing Services, Government of Pakistan, Member: Board of Directors Society of

Conservation Biology (USA), Genetics Society of America (USA), International Association of Ecology (USA), Society of Conservation Biology (Asian Group), Society of Conservation Biology (North America), Genetics Society of Pakistan, Ethnobotanical Association of Pakistan, Pakistan Botanical Society, Weed Science Society of Pakistan, Environmental Protection Society Swat, Board of Advisors Ethnobotany Project, WWF.

People like Prof. Habib Ahmad him born once in centuries. It will not be an exaggeration if we claim

him as one of the perfect human beings. He was candlelight for many in the field of education and research, especially, the deprived masses of society. We are sure that all his students and followers will take his noble cause ahead in society to educate people and work for the welfare of people.

We pray to the almighty ALLAH that best blessings may shower upon his gallant soul and may he is in the eternal Peace of the best of paradises. Aameen summa Aameen!

**Khan Bahadar Marwat (PhD)**

Fellow, Pakistan Academy of Sciences

**Shujaul Mulk Khan (PhD)**

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Member Pakistan Academy of Sciences