

Obituary



Dr. Shah Muhammad Hasanuzzaman
(1925 - 2012)

A very distinguished agricultural scientist of the country and an esteemed Fellow of the Bangladesh Academy of Sciences, Dr. Shah Muhammad Hasanuzzaman passed away on October 9, 2011 at his Indira Road, Dhaka residence due to old age complications.

Dr. Hasanuzzaman obtained B.Sc. (Ag.) and M.Sc. (Ag.) degrees from the Agricultural Institute of Dhaka University in 1945 and 1947, respectively. He did his M.S. degree from the Arkansas State University, USA in 1957 and Ph.D. from the Texas A & M University in 1959. He was offered Honorary Doctor of Science (D.Sc.) degree from Viswa Unnayan Samsad, India in 1983.

During his professional career, Dr. Shah Hasanuzzaman held many distinguished and respectable positions including Advisor on Agriculture of Japan International Cooperation Agency. He was a Member - Agriculture, Planning Commission of the Government of Bangladesh from 1987 to 1990. He was also a Liaison Scientist of the International Rice Research Institute (IRRI) from January 1985 to December 1986; Director General of Bangladesh Rice Research Institute (BRR) from 1977 to 1984, and Associate Director of BRR from 1974 to 1977.

Dr. Hasanuzzaman served the Department of Agriculture of the Ministry of Agriculture in various capacities since 1948. He was a member of the Board of Governors of the Bangladesh Agriculture Research Council; Chairman, Strategic Research Plans of National Agriculture Research System of BARC; Member, Pay and Agriculture Commissions of Bangladesh 1996-1998. He was President of the Bangladesh Association for the Advancement of Science (BAAS), and Vice-President, Bangladesh Academy of Agriculture. From 1985 to 1986 he served as the Vice-Chairman, International Rice Commission of the Food and Agricultural Organization (FAO). He was an Hon'able Member of the Syndicate of Bangladesh Agricultural University (BAU), Mymensingh; a member of Board of Regents of IPASA; and Academic Council Member, Chittagong University.

Dr. Hasanuzzaman received many awards and Honors from different National and International bodies and organizations. In 1969, he was awarded Tamgha-e-Imtiaz Gold Medal; In 1978 Independence Day Award; in 1983, National Professor by Viswa Unnayan Samsad, Calcutta, India. Board of Governors of the Bangladesh Rice Research Institute named its Genetic and Seed Resource Building as *Hasanuzzaman Hall* (1987). He was elected Scientist Emeritus of the Bangladesh Agricultural Institute by the Board of Governors in 1986. Bangladesh Academy of Sciences (BAS)

awarded Gold Medal in 1988 for his outstanding contributions in Agriculture. Krishibid Foundation-65 Padak was awarded to him in 1992. In recognition of his contribution to develop HYV Rice, Plaques of honor was presented by the Bangladesh Unnayan Parishad.

Dr. Hasanuzzaman attended many national and international seminars, conferences, workshops and symposia. His research areas included plant genetics, rice, wheat, maize and cotton breeding. Until his retirement he was engaged in researches to develop High Yielding Rice varieties and improved agronomic practices. He published more than 80 scientific papers and popular articles, and 8 books. He guided and supervised many students leading to M.Sc., M.Sc. (Ag.) and Ph.D. of Dhaka University and Bangladesh Agricultural University. The Academy would like to put on record the great services and contributions of Late Dr. Hasanuzzaman to the cause of sciences and technology in the country, particularly, for the promotion of Agricultural and Life Sciences.

In the sad demise of Dr. Zaman, the country lost a dedicated agricultural scientist and a devoted researcher and the Bangladesh Academy of Sciences lost a distinguished Fellow. We pray to Almighty Allah, Most Gracious and Most Merciful, to grant eternal peace to the departed Soul.

– Syed Mohammad Humayun Kabir