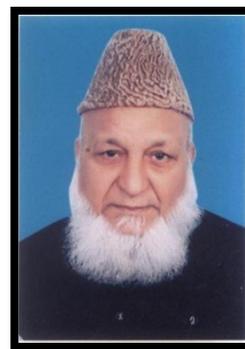


Obituary

Dr. M. A. Maqbool

(10th March, 1941-31st July, 2016)



Dr. Mohammad Ahmed Maqbool, the renowned Nematode Taxonomist, founding father of National Nematological Research Centre, University of Karachi, gently passed away on Sunday 31st July, 2016 at 4.00 PM at the age of 75. May Allah bless his soul through His infinite mercy and place him in Heaven, and give courage to his aggrieved family to bear this loss, Ameen! His death is a great loss to the National Nematological Research Centre, University of Karachi, Pakistan Society of Nematologists and the scientific community of Pakistan, as well as the international Nematologists community. The world lost an outstanding nematologist and staunch promoter of the science of Nematology, a dedicated administrator and a caring community leader.

Dr. Maqbool was recognized as the founder of the organized discipline of Nematology in Pakistan. He made very valuable contributions and extensive research in Plant Nematology, especially on the systematics, morphology and biology of plant, soil, fresh water, marine and entomopathogenic nematodes. He also worked on the chemical and biological control of plant parasitic nematodes as well as on the use of nematodes for bio-control of insect pests of field crops. He spent almost his entire professional carrier at NNRC, University of Karachi; where, during 1989 - 2001 he held the position of Director till his retirement and devoted his time and energies to the recognition and advancement of the discipline across the country.

His untiring diligence, dedicated insistence, devotion and immense service to the subject have transformed NNRC from a small centre to a premier national research and academic centre of the country. The successful journey of NNRC spreading over four decades will remain incomplete without mentioning the endeavors of Dr. Maqbool. It is a story of great obligation and devotion; with limited financial and technical support, the Centre under his dynamic leadership, in a short span of time achieved the excellence with extremely exciting, prolific and successful years.

Born in Allahabad, India on 10 March, 1941, Dr. Maqbool migrated to the newly created Pakistan in 1947. He graduated from the University of Karachi (1960), obtained M.Sc. in Agriculture from then Sindh Agriculture College (now University), Tandojam (1962) and Ph. D in Botany (Nematology) from the University of Karachi (1984) under the mentorship of world renowned Professor Dr. Abdul Ghaffar. Dr. Maqbool initiated his scientific career in the subject of Nematology from Agriculture Research Institute, Tandojam in 1962. He joined the University of Karachi in 1973 and with the active support and patronage of the then Vice Chancellor, Prof. Dr. Mahmood Hussain and the Dean Faculty of Science, Prof. Dr. Zain-ul-Abidin, established a Nematology Laboratory. This lab was recognized as National Nematological Research Centre in 1982 by the Pakistan Agricultural Research Council (PARC). In the

year 1980, he organized Pakistan Society of Nematologists (PSN) and initiated publication of an internationally reputed journal, Pakistan Journal of Nematology (PJM) in 1983.

Dr. Maqbool was truly an enthusiastic Nematologist with more than 200 research publications in national and international scientific journals. He wrote seven book chapters and was author of 19 books and booklets, co-author of four books and monographs and editor of five international workshop proceedings. He received advance training in Nematology from USDA, Beltsville, Maryland, USA with Dr. Morgan Golden and his team, CAB Institute of Parasitology, St. Albans and Rothamsted Experimental Station, Harpenden, UK. Besides holding seminars and training courses, he also organized International workshops on Plant Nematology in collaboration with the Government of Sindh, Government of Pakistan, PARC, USDA (1986) and FAO (1992). He had been the principal investigator of several research projects sponsored by national and international agencies.

He was a member of several professional societies and organizations and served on various capacities. He travelled worldwide and participated in several scientific meetings in Pakistan and abroad. During his illustrious, long and active scientific career, Dr. Maqbool received numerous awards and honors as a measure of the high regard in which he was held by his colleagues. Dr. Maqbool had directed the research studies of several MS students, 05 Ph.D. scholars including Prof. Dr. Shahina Fayyaz (1989), Dr. Nasira Kazi (1996), Dr. Firoza Kazi (1996), Dr. Zarina Begum (1996), Dr. Muhammad Abid (1996).

Dr. Maqbool was a born leader. Energy, hard work, brilliance, fear of Allah Almighty and generosity would best describe late Dr. Maqbool's personality and lifestyle. He was both critical and open-minded, kind and compassionate, thoughtful and caring, and a much revered mentor and friend to faculty and students alike. He inspired his colleagues and students through character, knowledge and literary sensibility.

Dr. Maqbool will always be remembered for his contributions to agriculture research related to the discipline of Nematology and its development. On account of contribution of Dr Maqbool in Nematology especially for NNRC, the institute has lost an icon. May Allah accept his unremitting endeavors in the advancement of Nematology, the Centre and the country.

His sudden death leaves his family, his colleagues and entire Nematology community in deep sadness and sorrow. He will be greatly missed and lovingly remembered by all of us. We pray to Almighty Allah to give courage and fortitude to his family to bear this irreparable loss, Ameen! Dr. Maqbool is survived by his two daughters, four sons and 18 grandchildren.

**Prof. Dr. Shahina Fayyaz
and the NNRC Team**