

DR. MANZOOR SAEED
(1944 – 1989)

Dr. Manzoor Saeed died of cardiac failure due to acute myocardic infarction on 16th February, 1989. He was hospitalized for several weeks suffering from acute gastroenteritis and malfunction of the liver. May God Almighty shower his choicest blessings upon the departed soul, Amen.

Dr. Manzoor Saeed was born at Saharanpur in India on 16th May 1944. He received his early education at Bijnor. Later he moved to the University of Aligarh, India from where he obtained his M.Sc. degree in Botany with specialization in Plant Pathology in 1965 securing First Division and first position amongst the students. He served as a Research Fellow for about a year. Dr. Manzoor Saeed migrated to Pakistan in 1967 and joined the Pakistan Council of Scientific and Industrial Research Laboratories at Karachi. He started chromosome studies and polyploidy analysis in grasses of West Pakistan but because of his interest worked on the plant parasitic nematode fauna of Sind area with emphasis on control strategies using aromatic fractions of petroleum. On 29th March, 1970 he was one of the injured persons in the train derailment accident at Pipri which led to the amputation of his left arm but it did not deter his devotion to research studies. Dr. Manzoor Saeed contributed a great deal to the *Hemicriconemoides mangiferae* associated with *Achras zapota* for which he was awarded the degree of Ph. D. in Botany in 1974 by the Faculty of Science, University of Karachi.

Dr. Manzoor Saeed was awarded Alexander Von Humboldt Post Doctorate Fellowship in Agricultural Nematology for about 2 years (1978-1980). He worked with Dr. J. Roessner at the Institute für Phytopathologie und Angewandte Zoologie, Justus Liebig University, Giessen, Federal Republic of Germany. Dr. Manzoor Saeed became interested on anhydrobiosis and the phenomenon of suspended animation in nematodes. He worked on the desiccation tolerance in *Romanomermis culicivorax* and response of cryptobiotic larva of *Anguina tritici* to certain stimuli. Other nematodes on which Dr. Manzoor Saeed has made significant contribution were *Criconemella kamali*, *Helicotylenchus indicus* and species of *Hoplolaimus* and *Meloidogyne*. Lately he showed his interest on biological control of nematodes by fungal egg parasites.

Dr. Manzoor Saeed was also associated with teaching and research guidance programme at the University of Karachi and the Agriculture University Peshawar. He traveled far and wide in the countries of Germany, Switzerland, Holland, India, England, Thailand, Singapore, Indonesia and USA. Dr. Manzoor Saeed was fellow of the Linnaen Society of London, member of European Society of Nematologists (also official correspondent of Pakistan), US Society of Nematologists and Pakistan Society of Nematologists. Dr. Manzoor Saeed was holding the position of Principal Scientific Officer and Group Leader in Nematology/Cytogenetics at the PCSIR Laboratories, Karachi. A few weeks before his death Dr. Manzoor Saeed was elected as Vice-President of Pakistan Society of Nematologists.

Dr. Manzoor Saeed was a prolific writer and apart from 41 scientific research papers published in journals of international repute, he contributed several popular scientific articles in the daily newspapers of the country.

Dr. Manzoor Saeed is survived by his wife Wiqar Anjum Saeed, three children (Atif Saeed, 17; Danish Saeed, 14; Bilal Saeed, 10) and a host of friends and relatives who would remember him as one of the few Nematologists who has made a significant contribution to Plant Nematology in Pakistan.

A. Ghaffar and M.A. Maqbool