



Dr. B.B. Nagaich

(b. August 11, 1931)

Dr. Banke Bihari Nagaich was born on 11th August, 1931 at Rath, District Hamirpur, Uttar Pradesh. In the year 1955 he obtained M.Sc. (Ag.) degree in Plant Pathology from Agra University. Later he obtained his Doctoral degree from the University of Illinois (US). During his stay at Illinois he assisted Prof. Thornberry in survey and surveillance work on plant viruses. Dr. Nagaich joined the Indian Agricultural Research Institute at its regional station at Shimla in 1958 and continued to work there till 1963. In 1963, he joined the Central Potato Research Institute, Shimla where he worked as a Virologist and as Head, Division of Plant Pathology in close association with Dr. Pushkarnath and Dr. Mukhtar Singh. In October 1975, Dr. Nagaich took over as the Director of Central Potato Research Institute, Shimla and retired from this post in 1982. Dr. Nagaich is a founder life member of Indian Potato Association (IPA). He was its President during 1976-78 and 1980-81. He was also the first Editor-in-Chief of the Journal of Indian Potato Association. He was the secretary General of Asian Potato Association in 1979. He is a member of European Association of Potato Research and represented India in their Triennial Conference. Dr. Nagaich is also the Life Member of Indian Phytopathological Society (IPS), Association of Microbiologists of India and Bundelkhand Farm Development Society. He was the President of Indian Phytopathological Society in 1982. He was a member of the Scientific Panel of ICAR from 1967 to 1970 and Science Information Service in Phytovirology under FAO. He has been nominated on several state level committees dealing with agriculture and horticulture in U.P. Dr. Nagaich attended many symposia and conferences on plant diseases, presented research papers and key-note addresses both in India and abroad and chaired sessions of plant viruses and viral diseases organized by IPS in 1974 and 1979. He organized two International Seminars on potato, one each in 1978 in collaboration with IPA and in 1979 in collaboration with International Potato Centre (CIP) and the Summer Institutes on Potato in 1976 and 1980. Presently he is the Director General, Bundelkhand Farm Development Centre, UP and the Advisor, Vegepro Food and Feeds Ltd. As a Research Fellow at Illinois, Dr. Nagaich worked on a new viral disease of tomato. He also assisted Prof. Thornberry in survey and surveillance of plant viruses. During his stay at IARI Regional Station Shimla (1958-63) he reported several viruses on fruit trees, vegetables and cereals. He also discovered a new aphid vector. At ICAR-CPRI, Shimla he made important contributions in identifying and studying yellow diseases. He discovered Purple Top Roll and Marginal Flavescence diseases of potato and evolved techniques of elimination of potato leaf roll virus from the tubers. He identified new species of leaf hopper transmitting MLOs and aphid vectors for viruses. He was closely associated with the production of virus tested nucleus seed and was responsible for bringing in a qualitative improvement in seed stocks of improved potato varieties. Dr. Nagaich has over 134 research publications to his credit. He edited four books on potato and published a number of Technical Bulletins. He guided 8 students for the award of their Ph.D. degree.

Dr. Nagaich was honoured with Guinness Award in 1979, Kheti Award in 1980 and Prof. Narsimha Award in 1984.