

Obituary

Born on April 28, 1928 in a remote village in Lohara Distt. in Kangra, Himachal Pradesh. Dr Thakur graduated in Agriculture from Delhi University in 1950 and attained M.Sc. Agriculture from the Indian Agricultural Research Institute in 1965 as an in service candidate. He then proceeded to USA for Ph.D. (1968-70) on a Government of India scholarship at the Ohio State University.

Dr Thakur served in various capacities as Research Assistant in the Ministry of Agriculture, and Government of India at Kullu from 1951 to 1960. Later he shifted to Indian Agriculture Research Institute, Delhi on the same post and served there from 1960 to 1965. He also served Punjab Agricultural University, Ludhiana as Assistant Professor (1965-1971), as Associate Professor in 1971-81 and as Professor till 1984. He also served in Afghanistan as an ITEC Expert in Horticulture from 1976 to 1980.

Dr Thakur joined Himachal Pradesh Agriculture University, Palampur as Pro-Vice-Chancellor in 1984 at Solan. Thereafter, he was appointed as the first Vice-Chancellor of Dr YS Parmar University of Horticulture and Forestry, Nauni, Solan in December, 1985 and served there till May, 1991. Dr Thakur published over

70 research papers on vegetable science and guided seven Ph.D. and ten M.Sc. students. He was the recipient of the Rafi Ahmed Kidwai Memorial Award of the ICAR in 1981 for his work on vegetable breeding.

He left for his heavenly abode on June 6, 2010 at his native village. The Horticultural Society of India deeply mourns the sad demise of Dr Thakur and prays for his pious soul to rest in

peace. A condolence meeting was held on 03.07.2010 at the Division of Fruits and Horticultural Technology, IARI, New Delhi during the Executive Council Meeting of HSI. All paid rich tribute to the departed soul.

The society and the entire horticultural fraternity is immensely aggrieved on his sad demise and would always remember Dr Thakur for his numerous contributions in horticulture and his services in public life.



Dr M.R. Thakur
(28.04.1928 to
06.06.2010)