

PROFESSOR R. B. SINGH

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In recognition of his immense contribution to new knowledge, human resource capital and the science-led transformation of agriculture towards the alleviation of hunger and poverty in India and the Asia Pacific Region, Prof. Ram Badan Singh has been awarded the ***Padma Bhushan*** by the Hon'ble President of India – one of India's highest civilian honours that recognizes distinguished service of a high order to the Nation in any field, in 2003.

Currently, Prof. Singh is Chancellor, Central Agricultural University, Imphal, and President, National Academy of Agricultural Sciences.

Prof. Singh, Ph. D. in Genetics (NCSU, Raleigh, USA, 1964), possesses a career of leadership in improving agrarian livelihood, food, nutrition and ecological security, in cutting-edge research and technology development, in higher education and human resources development and in policy and programme formulation, execution and appraisal; each pursued in national, continental and global capacities. Prof. Singh had made important original contributions in the fields of Genetics, Plant Breeding and Biotechnology, guided doctoral research of 45 Ph.Ds. and authored over 300 research and policy papers and 12 books.

During the past 50 years, Prof. Singh had held several other coveted positions both at national and international levels. He was Member of the National Commission on Farmers, constituted by the Government of India, 2004-2006. He was Assistant Director General of FAO of the United Nations and Regional Representative for Asia and the Pacific from 2000 to 2002 and held other senior FAO positions for 15 years from 1979 to 1994 at Bangkok and Rome. In India, he was Chairman of the Agricultural Scientists Recruitment Board (ASRB, 1999-2000), Director and Vice Chancellor of the prestigious Indian Agricultural Research Institute (IARI), New Delhi (1995-99) and Dean, Head of Department, Sr. Professor & Chair/Member Executive Council at leading Universities (1964-1979).

While with the FAO, Prof. Singh had assisted several developing countries in enhancing their human resource, research and technology development capacities, in augmenting productivity, sustainability and profitability of major farming systems, and in strengthening policies, strategies and enabling mechanisms through launching highly acclaimed national/international programmes. Prof. Singh has been President/Chair of several professional societies, national committees and main architect and organiser of several international networks and events, such as the Asia-Pacific Association of Agricultural Research Institutions, Southeast Asian Plant Genetic Resources Programme, Regional and Global Fora for Farmers, International Crop Science Congress, International Food Legumes Research Conference, FAO Regional Conferences for Asia and the Pacific and India-South Asia, India-Africa and India-Latin America and the Caribbean Conferences on Food Security.

At the national level, as Member of the National Commission on Farmers, he shared the responsibility to suggest the Government appropriate policy, strategy and programme interventions to enhance farmers' income and to alleviate hunger and poverty. As research and development leader, Professor Singh had developed widely adopted modern varieties of wheat, rice, pulses, oilseeds and cotton, which had contributed and continue to contribute immensely to food, economic and livelihood securities. He steered IARI towards its continued leadership in the New Millennium and prepared the roadmap for an evergreen revolution. As Chair, ASRB, Prof Singh had steered a dynamic HRD outlook and as VC/Director, IARI, he had forged public-private partnership in research and skill development. Currently, as President NAAS, Prof. Singh is providing science-led policy options and science-society interface towards achieving sustainable livelihood security.

Along with the ***Padma Bhushan***, his other recognitions include: Doctor of Science (*honoris causa*) from eight Universities, Gold Medal from the International Board for Plant Genetic Resources, Lal Bahadur Shastri Memorial International Scientist Award, *Vigyan Gaurav Samman*, *Bharatiya Paramparagat Vigyan Puraskar*, Dr. Zhu Shoumin International College of Nutrition Award and Distinguished Alumnus Awards. He is Fellow of the Indian Academy of Sciences, of the National Academy of Sciences and of the National Academy of Agricultural Sciences.