

Bhagmal@80

**Eightieth Birthday
Celebration of Dr Bhag Mal**



80th
BIRTHDAY





Bhagmal@80

**Eightieth Birthday
Celebration of Dr Bhag Mal**



(Born 1 April, 1942)



Progress Through Science

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Progress Through Science

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Foreword

It is heartening that the Trust for Advancement of Agricultural Sciences (TAAS) could celebrate its Secretary Dr Bhag Mal's 80th birthday on 1 April, 2022. Eighty is just a number, with God's grace, Dr Bhag Mal is still very active and enjoys good health and works tirelessly to fulfil the mandate of TAAS - which is linking science to society. He is a born octogenarian.

I have known Dr Bhag Mal since long. He is quite simple and a sincere person. He is down to earth, very hard working and above all most committed to the task that he undertakes. His sincerity of the purpose is unmatched. He is quite humble and has a rare quality of not losing temper come what may.

He respects others and always willing to be flexible. Above all, he is always smiling and full of positivity. He is known for his analytical approach for any responsibility bestowed on him. He is meticulous and good at drafting and editing technical papers/documents.

Above all, he is a man of few but right words, with foresight, zeal, enthusiasm, which makes him an excellent human being par excellence. For these qualities, he is loved by one and all.

This compilation of messages and reminiscences from his friends, colleagues, relatives and family members makes an interesting reading about qualities of Dr Bhag Mal as an individual. I am sure it will be inspiring for young generation to imbibe good qualities of him.

I appreciate the sincere efforts made by Dr Umesh Srivastava in compiling this publication and getting it printed.

Finally, let God bless Dr Bhag Mal with many more years of good health and happiness so that he continues serving the cause of Indian agriculture and millions of our smallholder farmers.

Raj Paroda
Chairman
TAAS



Preface

Dr Bhag Mal, Secretary, Trust for Advancement of Agricultural Sciences (TAAS), and Former South Asia Coordinator of Alliance of Bioversity International and CIAT (earlier Bioversity International/IPGRI/IBPGR) completed eighty years of age on 1 April, 2022. To commemorate this milestone day- his 80th Birthday, Dr Raj Paroda, Chairperson of the TAAS has decided to bring out a publication '*Bhagmal@80- Eightieth Birthday Celebration of Dr Bhag Mal*'.

This publication is a compilation of messages, memories and good wishes from a few friends, colleagues and relatives of Dr Bhag Mal. The opening remarks in the 'Foreword' of the compilation written by Dr Raj Paroda testifies the ability of Dr Bhag Mal who has unique quality of being hardworking, affectionate and considerate towards all the sections of society. This follows messages placed in alphabetical order with first name of the contributor. The book has been divided in four parts, viz., Introduction containing a brief of Dr Bhag Mal's journey from village 'Tatiri' to the present destination (eight decades of time); messages from friends and colleagues; messages from close and extended family members & relatives; and contributors' index. Most of the contributors have praised him as an extraordinary person beyond imagination

Advancing age has not yet deterred him from work. Now, even at the age 80 years, he is perfectly fit physically with sound mind and sharp memories and is working selflessly for the betterment of the society and humanity at large. He is extremely simple, easy-to-approach and a gentleman kind personality. Currently, Dr Bhag Mal is a Trustee of the TAAS and is also serving as its Secretary with full devotion. Besides his scientific temper, he is a true humankind. He is always modest in approach, kind, fair and humane. Being extremely friendly, he quickly develops new friends, and I am an example when we become friends 45 years ago at first sight during the year 1987.

I wish him a long happy, healthy and prosperous life enabling us to work together for many more years to come. My best regards to Dr Bhag Mal ji.

Umesh Srivastava



Celebrating 80th Birthday of Dr Bhag Mal



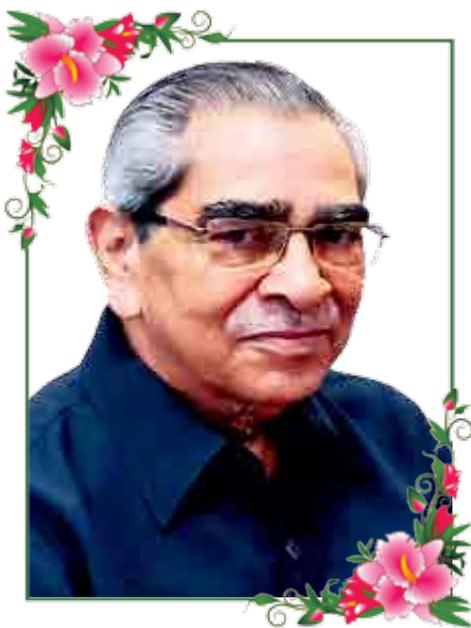






डॉ. भागमल
के आठ दशकों
की स्मणीक
यात्रा गाथा

Introduction



Born on 1st April 1942 at village 'Tatiri' in the district Baghpat (earlier Meerut) of Uttar Pradesh to late Shri Ram Kishan ji and late Smt. Mono Devi, he is the eldest among the four siblings (three brothers and one sister). He obtained his early education up to 8th standard in the High Schools in villages 'Tera' and 'Kamala Jud' while living at his maternal uncle's village Titroada. From 9th standard onwards, he moved to a small town Baraut about 18 km from his native village and had his education from 9-12th standard at the Janta Vedic Inter College with 8th position in UP Board and further BSc (Ag) and MSc (Agril Botany) from the Janta Vedic PG College, Baraut, Dist. Baghpat and obtained 1st position in the college, 7th position in the University, and bagged Chancellor's Medal for being one of the two best students of all the affiliated colleges/campuses of Agra University,

Agra in 1962. Though his village was well connected with rail and road transport and it was easy to have daily up and down for attending the classes from home but he with firm determination preferred to stay in the town all alone so that he can concentrate on his studies. It is indeed a matter of great courage for a boy of 16 years to stay away from parents alone by taking a room on rent in the town and making food arrangement in a students' mess.

Although his parents were not educated and engaged in farming but were keen that their children must get proper education and hence always encouraged them. After graduation, his parents were not keen that he should pursue higher education due to financial constraints on account of severe damage to the crops in the field due to bad weather. He realized the situation and decided not to put burden on his parents and started looking for jobs. He attended two interviews for Lecturer's position in different Inter Colleges but was not selected and instead the



Dr Bhag Mal - At a Glance

- ✦ Born in village 'Tatiri' Baghpat (Uttar Pradesh) on 1 April, 1942
- ✦ Schooling upto 8th standard at 'Titroada, Tera', and 'Kamala Jud', and 9-12th standard at the Janta Vedic Inter College, Baraut (Baghpat)
- ✦ BSc (Ag) and MSc (Agril. Botany) from Agra University, Agra (Janta Vedic College, Baraut)
- ✦ PhD from Jiwaji University, Gwalior (Madhya Pradesh)
- ✦ Postgraduate Lecturer, Janta Vedic College, Baraut, Baghpat
- ✦ Sr Research Assistant, ICAR-IARI, Plant Introduction Station, Jodhpur
- ✦ Assistant Plant Improvement Officer (Grasses), ICAR-IGFRI, Jhansi
- ✦ Jr. Botanist, ICAR-IARI Plant Introduction Station, Amravati (Maharashtra)
- ✦ Senior Plant Breeder, ICAR-IGFRI, Jhansi (Uttar Pradesh)
- ✦ Head, Crop Improvement Division, ICAR-IGFRI, Jhansi (Uttar Pradesh)
- ✦ Project Coordinator (UUP), ICAR-NBPGR, New Delhi
- ✦ ADG (Seeds) and ADG (FFC), ICAR, New Delhi
- ✦ Director, ICAR-IGFRI, Jhansi (Uttar Pradesh)
- ✦ South Asia Coordinator, IPGRI (now Alliance BI & CIAT), Regional Office, New Delhi
- ✦ Honorary Research Fellow, Bioversity International
- ✦ Senior Consultant, APAARI, Bangkok
- ✦ Executive Secretary, APAARI, Bangkok
- ✦ Senior Consultant, TAAS, New Delhi
- ✦ Trustee & Secretary, TAAS, New Delhi (continuing)
- ✦ President, Indian Society of Plant Genetic Resources (ISPGR), New Delhi and Range Management Society of India (RMSI), IGFRI, Jhansi
- ✦ Vice President, Indian Society of Genetics & Plant Breeding (ISG&PB); and Indian Society of Plant Genetic Resources (ISPGR)
- ✦ Consultant, FAO and Bioversity International
- ✦ Leader, International Projects on Forage Crops (DFID), Tropical Fruits (ADB) and Neglected and Underutilized Species (IFAD)
- ✦ Chair/Co-Chair, National & International Conferences
- ✦ Chair/Member, National Advisory Committees, Working Groups and Scientific Delegations abroad
- ✦ Editor-in-Chief, Indian Journal of Plant Genetic Resources (IJPGR)
- ✦ Editor, APO Newsletter



Selection Boards advised him to pursue higher studies in view of his being highly meritorious and topper in the college. Perhaps, there was something else in his destiny.

One day, he got an inland letter from a close relative in Delhi to get him 'Admission Form' from Janta Vedic Degree College, Baraut and when he went to Baraut to get the admission form, he also met Shri Bhanwar Singh Rana who was his close friend and one year senior in the college studying in MSc (Ag) final. BS Rana insisted him to accompany him to the college and meet his classmates. Although he declined, BS Rana prevailed and took him to his class. The Head of the Department of the Agricultural Botany came to know that I was sitting in the class, he called me and asked why you have not taken admission in spite of being topper in the college. Hehonestly expressed to the Head of the Department that he does not want any financial burden on his parents. Although the last date of admissions was over by one day, the Head of the Department was very keen about this admission in his department and he earnestly requested the Principal and got him admitted in back date. He unwillingly took admission in MSc (Agril. Botany) without the consent of parents. When he went back home and informed the parents about admission, they were initially very unhappy but later not only encouraged but fully supported him.

After getting the MSc (Agril. Botany) degree, he wished to take admission for PhD degree in the ICAR-IARI, New Delhi but later dropped the idea due to financial constraints and instead, joined as 'Assistant Professor' in Janta Vedic College, Baraut. But he soon realized that there was not much scope of progress in teaching profession in the college and then he applied for the post of 'Senior Research Assistant' in the Plant Introduction Division, ICAR-IARI, and got selected through UPSC and joined at ICAR-IARI Plant Introduction Station at Jodhpur (Rajasthan). None in the family was supportive of his moving to Jodhpur which was heavily bombarded during Indo-Pak war in 1965-66. Dr Bhag Mal then, seriously thought over and analysed the pros and cons especially in view of his career progress and finally decided to join at Jodhpur. After about two years, he applied and got selected for the post of 'Junior Agrostologist' at the ICAR-Central Arid Zone Research Institute (CAZRI), Jodhpur and also for the post of 'Assistant Plant Improvement Officer' at the ICAR-IGFRI and finally looking into scope and his research area of



Dr Bhag Mal in young age (in middle with his wife Mrs Satyawati Singh)



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Eightieth Birthday Celebration of Dr Bhag Mal

interest he moved to ICAR-IGFRI, Jhansi in the year 1968. He was very firm in his mind that without PhD degree, it is difficult to make further progress and hence moved to the Regional Station of Plant Introduction Division at Amravati (Maharashtra) as 'Junior Botanist' in 1973 keeping in mind that after two years, he will be eligible for admission in PG School, ICAR-IARI New Delhi as a part-time candidate and it so happened that after two years, he got selected topping the list of selected candidates for PhD admission and was accordingly transferred from Amravati to New Delhi. In the meantime, he was selected as Plant Breeder (Senior Class I post) at the ICAR-IGFRI, Jhansi (Uttar Pradesh). Then, he was in a great dilemma whether to continue PhD or join at Jhansi. He consulted the Head and other senior colleagues in the Division and every one advised him to avail this opportunity which may not be possible so soon even after being PhD, and finally, he moved to ICAR-IGFRI, Jhansi. Besides excellence in fodder research, he continued his efforts for pursuing PhD program and discussed with the then Director who made him the Chairman of the Committee to get ICAR-IGFRI Jhansi affiliated with Jiwaji University, Gwalior and finally, he completed his long-awaited dream of acquiring PhD degree from Jiwaji University, Gwalior in the year 1985.

I would like to mention that one of his close relative Shri Naresh Verma ji expressed him as-

“कर्तव्य पथ पर अग्रसर पथिक को विश्राम कहां? निरंतर चलते रहना उसकी नियति है। जीवन की चरमलय की प्राप्ति तक तिल-तिल जलना ही पड़ता है, तभी उसकी सार्थकता सिद्ध होती है। ऐसी ही सार्थकता बागपत के गांव 'टटीरी' में मेहनतकश कृषक परिवार में 1 अप्रैल, 1942 में जन्मे, डॉक्टर भागमल' जी कर रहे हैं। डॉ. भागमल जी न केवल व्यवहार कुशल है, अपितु सामाजिक गतिविधियों में व्यक्ति किस तरह जानभर देता है, यह किसी को जानना है तो आपसे जाने।

उनके व्यक्तित्व में शिक्षा, ज्ञान और सेवा की त्रिमूर्ति का वास है। शायद इसी कारण जब मैंने उनसे अपने गांव में लड़कियों की शिक्षा की दशा पर बात की तो उन्होंने कहा की यह समाज के लिए बहुत जरूरी है कि ग्रामीण लड़कियों को शिक्षा दी जाए। उनसे बात करके मेरा मनोबल बढ़ा और हमने ठाना की फजलपुर बागपत में केवल लड़कियों के लिए एक स्कूल खोला जाए और हमने एक ट्रस्ट बनाया। इस ट्रस्ट के न केवल निर्माण अपितु उसको आगे बढ़ाने के लिए आज तक निरंतर डॉ. भागमल जी तन, मन और धन से सहयोग कर रहे हैं। पूसा संस्थान में वैज्ञानिक होने के बावजूद अपने व्यस्ततम समय में से समय निकालकर हमारे आग्रह पर नवंबर 2010 से नवंबर 2015 तक 'शांति देवी कन्या इंटर कॉलेज, फजलपुर, बागपत' के चेयरमैन के दायित्व का निर्वाह किया। इस बीच वे निरंतर स्कूल में जाते रहे और कैसे उस इंटर कालेज की लड़कियों का सर्वांगीण विकास हो, इसके बारे में सोचते रहे।”

One more point, on family front, after the death of his younger brother due to throat cancer, he happily shouldered the responsibility of his family and small children until they were fully grown-up and started earning on their own, including marriage of his niece, apart other support.

As a Project Coordinator, AICRP on Underutilized and Under-Exploited Plants, he successfully managed and coordinated the activities of the project which resulted in the development of several improved varieties and production technologies of these crops.





Dr Bhag Mal with Dr MH Mangesha Head, ICRISAT Genebank and Dr Nazmul Haq, Director, International Centre for Underutilized Crops (ICUC), Southampton (UK)

In addition, he had also been given the responsibility of implementing the USAID Project at the ICAR-NBPGR (1989-1994). He executed the project activities of infrastructure development, collaborative research and training of scientists and technicians, and visits of around 100 scientists and technicians in different laboratories in the US under the HRD component of the Indo-US PGR Project. His contribution at the PIU to monitor the construction of National Genebank/ICAR-NBPGR Hqrs building under the overall leadership of Dr RS Paroda/Dr RS Rana, is a memorable one. This amply demonstrated his coordination and managerial skills. He was also entrusted with the responsibility as Assistant Director General (Seed) and Assistant Director



General (Food and Fodder Crops) and was later appointed as Director, ICAR-IGFRI, Jhansi in 1996. After serving the national system in different capacities, he received an opportunity to serve as Coordinator, IPGRI (now Bioversity International) and as Interim Executive Secretary, APAARI in the international system, where he also left his footprints.

While working at the ICAR-Indian Grassland and Fodder Research Institute (ICAR-IGFRI) and at the ICAR-NBPGR, he made very significant contributions in fodder crops and underutilized plants research and development. During his professional career, he developed six (6) forage crops varieties and contributed for evolving ten (10) varieties of underutilized crops. Also, he has been instrumental in the implementation and coordination of important international projects such as Indo-UK Forage Project, Indo-Australian Project, ADB funded Tropical Fruits Project in 10 countries, ACIAR funded Project on Conservation of Tropical Fruit Species Germplasm in five countries, IFAD-NUS Project on Small millets, etc. apart Indo-USAID PGR Project.

Another important facet of Dr Bhag Mal's personality is his enormous scientific experience and wisdom. Despite so many achievements in the field of genetics and plant breeding, he always remained humble and unassuming. His contributions in the areas of biodiversity conservation, characterization and utilization, genetics and breeding of fodder crops and underutilized crops, agro-forestry etc. will always remain important. He is not only an excellent scientist, but a great research manager, administrator, and institution builder. His ability to manage many complex situations even under the times of stress with professional handling, balanced mind and cool temperament made him rise so high in his career.



As Director, ICAR-IGFRI, Jhansi



Dr Bhag Mal is an eloquent speaker and has capability to stimulate, sensitize and impress the audience by his lucid and logical conclusions in his presentations. His mission, his vision and his spirit have been very commendable throughout in discharging his responsibilities and assignments to achieve laudable and impactful results of utility. In the diversities of different overlapping concomitant responsibilities, he learned fast, grasped the appreciable knowledge and delivered satisfying results expeditiously.

Very few people have the luck, as we are blessed with, of having in Dr Bhag Mal, a strong supporter, ardent motivator encouraging guide, protecting mentor, an emulative role model, compassionated educator and a persuasible leader. His distinguished brilliance, devoted teaching, guiding research to hundreds of agricultural scientists in India and abroad, has brought golden laurels to motherland, in fabulous quantitative and qualitative encomiums. The country is proudly enriched by his inborn talent and academic leadership.

His dedicated contribution to the Green Revolution will remain engraved in golden words in the history of the agricultural world. May the light of his enlightened guidance and wisdom, illuminate the green-fields in the country and the world at large.

Dr Bhag Mal does not possess any kind of ill will, any kind of pollution in mind, and any kind of artificiality, etc; and we see him always smiling. To whom he meets, with his unreserved smile, the other reaches him with magnetic attraction and the person becomes his 'Admirer'. For such a long time, we have never seen him in 'anger', never betraying to his assigned duties, never say 'no' to anybody, that is why he is loved by one and all, be it classmate, relatives, brothers, sisters, or maternal and paternal uncles. All find him very close to them, extremely faithful also. Born in a farmer's family, Dr Bhag Mal has successfully travelled a long journey to make a great contribution to Indian Agriculture as an eminent scientist and an able administrator at various positions in the ICAR and elsewhere. He is not only a great planner, an able administrator and a research manager, but also a fine human being who seems to gel very easily with his seniors, colleagues and subordinates.

Apart academics, he had special interest in sports right from childhood. In the college tournaments, he used to watch the games especially, volley ball, badminton and sports throughout the day. When the College Principal once made it mandatory for each student to participate in games or sports, he along with his classmate competed in three-legged race and stood first. Later, at ICAR-IGFRI Jhansi, he participated in badminton and reached up to semi-final. When he was Director, he successfully organized 'ICAR Regional Sports Meet' at the ICAR-IGFRI, Jhansi where sport's contingent were greeted by rain of flowers by helicopter (pl see the event next page).

At the TAAS, he is rendering equally excellent service and his untiring efforts have led to significant expansion of TAAS activities. With God gifted health, he is still very active as ever and always busy in promoting science and science policies through his association with the TAAS as its Trustee and Secretary under the dynamic leadership of Dr RS Paroda, Chairman, TAAS.

Behind every successful person, family's support is very important. He is lucky to have his graceful wife Smt Satyawati Singh Ji, a pillar of strength, along with lovely children Sanjeev and





Sports contingents greeted by rain of flowers by helicopter during ICAR Regional Sports Meet at ICAR-IGFRI, Jhansi



Dr Bhag Mal, Director, ICAR-IGFRI with athletes of sports contingents

Kusum (son and daughter-in-law), Yudhishtir and Sunita (son-in-law and elder daughter) and Pawan and Sangeeta (son-in-law and younger daughter), grandsons Master Mrigank, Devansh, Bhuvnesh, and Roshil; and granddaughters Ms Vrinda and Rishima. All his colleagues, friends and well-wishers and family members join together in wishing a very happy 80th birthday to Dr Bhag Mal. We wish him a long happy, healthy and prosperous life enabling us to work together for many more years to come.

Best regards to Dr Bhag Mal ji.

Umesh Srivastava
Editor





Messages
from
Colleagues and
Friends





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My Association with Dr Bhag Mal

It is heartening that the TAAS was able to celebrate recently Dr Bhag Mal's 80th birthday. Also, it was decided to bring out a booklet reflecting the memoirs of colleagues and friends close to him and who had gathered at the NAAS to congratulate him.

Dr Bhag Mal has worked in very responsible positions, including ADG, ICAR and Director of ICAR-Indian Grassland and Fodder Research Institute (IGFRI), Jhansi. Earlier, he worked as Project Coordinator of All India Coordinated Research Project on Under-utilised crops at the ICAR-NBPGR, New Delhi.

My association with Dr Bhag Mal runs into decades of joint initiatives for academic excellence. We together published a book on 'Life Support Species. We also started our journey with research on forages and worked at the national institutes and organisations like ICAR-NBPGR, ICAR Hqrs, APAARI and TAAS. He also served ably as Regional Director for South Asia with Bioversity International (BI) and for a short while acted as Executive Secretary, APAARI, Bangkok. Dr Bhag Mal is a person of head and heart and known for his analytical approach for any responsibility bestowed on him. He is quite meticulous in drafting and editing technical papers and documents.



Dr Bhag Mal is with Dr RS Paroda inaugurating II Phase of ICAR-IGFRI Laboratories



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Eightieth Birthday Celebration of Dr Bhag Mal

Dr Bhag Mal is fortunate to have been blessed with some rare 'Sanskar' from his previous incarnation. I have known him to be a very simple and tireless person. He is down to earth, very hard working and above all most committed to the task that he undertakes. His sincerity of the purpose is unmatched. He is very humble with rare quality of never losing his temper, indeed a God given gift. He respects others and always willing to be flexible. Above all, he is always smiling and full of positivity.

On the occasion of his 80th Birthday, Shashi and I pray for his long and healthy life, family well-being and wish him Godspeed in this golden phase of his beautiful life.



Mrs and Dr Bhag Mal with Mrs and Dr Raj Paroda



Glimpses of Expert Meetings organized by APAARI



Dr Bhag Mal, Executive Secretary, APAARI during APAARI Executive Committee Meeting



Participants of APAARI sponsored Policy Dialogue on Prioritizing Demand-driven Agricultural Research



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Expert Consultation on Managing Trans-boundary Diseases of Agricultural Importance in Asia-Pacific organized by APAARI, ICAR and Govt. of India



Participants in APAARI sponsored meeting held at Bangkok





Participants of TAAS Meetings in collaboration with APAARI



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AK Roy

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A Man of Unparalleled Brilliance

I first came into contact with Dr Bhag Mal in 1996 when he joined as Director, ICAR-Indian Grassland and Fodder Research Institute (IGFRI), Jhansi. At that time, I was working as a Scientist and met him a few times regarding research issues. He constantly encouraged and motivated us to submit new project proposals for external funding, and new collaborations. During his tenure, because of his inspiration, we got new externally funded projects and started developing new laboratory and procuring new instruments which was inaugurated by him. He is an able administrator and human being par excellence. He was admired by all the staff for his positive approach in solving contentious issues following rules and regulations framework. He has a very sharp memory and we were astonished to see that when he came to IGFRI after a gap of approximately 15 years, he was able to remember all old staff with names and enquired them with their health and also family members. He is still fondly remembered by all the staff because



Dr Bhag Mal in AICRP Meeting with dignitaries



of his good nature and able leadership. Dr Bhag Mal has been a proven leader. He mentored young scientists like us and gave credit and praise in public whenever we achieved success .

Even after he left IGFR to join as Regional Coordinator in IPGRI (later Bioversity International, he was very helpful in formulating our research programs, and we used to consult him regularly regarding our research. He still has a high affinity for the forage program. Even at this age, he is very agile and dynamic. He is still guiding us as Chairman of Project Monitoring and Evaluation Committee of AICRP on Forage Crops and Utilization. His sharp memory and vast knowledge is helping us in formulating the programs. He is regularly participating in all the meetings and chairing sessions to improve the program with his constructive suggestions. His kind words of encouragement, guidance, and advice always helped us in achieving the targets and improving our capabilities. I just wanted to appreciate him and express how glad I have been to work under his leadership. I am genuinely proud to be led by such a great scientist. He has motivated me to contribute in the field of forage PGR and breeding. He has been my mentor, and everything I have achieved to date is because of him.

Thank you for everything Sir.



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Eightieth Birthday Celebration of Dr Bhag Mal

AK Srivastava

Vice Chancellor,
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Trustee, Trust for Advancement of Agricultural Sciences (TAAS) &
Former Chairman, Agricultural Scientists' Recruitment Board, GoI,
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Dr Bhag Mal: Knowledgeable and Excellent Human Being

I am delighted to know that Dr Bhag Mal has completed his 80 years of a very productive and useful life. First and foremost, I wish him a very happy 80th birthday and send my best wishes for his healthy, joyful, prosperous and active life ahead. I also deem it to be an honor to recall some of the memorable moments that I spent with Dr Bhag Mal. Further, I consider it a privilege to be associated with the commemorative publication on Dr Bhag Mal at this occasion. In fact, to meet and work with a person like Dr Bhag Mal has not been a mere coincidence but a rich experience for me. He is a genius and a reputed plant scientist. He has worked and contributed significantly to strengthen the National Agricultural Research System in India.

I, being a part of the National Agricultural Research System and the Trust for Advancement of Agricultural Sciences (TAAS), had several opportunities to interact with him but my affinity with Dr Bhag Mal grew to an unprecedented professional and personal level in the few years more particularly after his joining as Secretary, TAAS. It has been a great pleasure and privilege for me to be closely associated with Dr Bhag Mal over the years. My association with him helped me to learn the tireless working to understand the science in agriculture. I always enjoyed the academic and scientific discussion with him as the logic, facts, justification and reason triumphed at the end. I was very much-inspired by his soft-spoken personality and meticulous planning of the programs. During all these scientific events, which were organized by the TAAS, he minutely observed the strengths and weaknesses of the program and fearlessly expressed his views for further improvement. I found that he never accepts the statements on face value. He has a special ability to bring people together and create the team work.

I always admired his zeal, interest and energy, which he used to take for organization of academic and scientific programs of the TAAS. The beauty of his personality is that he is down to earth and does not keep distance from anybody. I observed him to be a man of few but correct words who stands by you in the thick and thin. At the age of 80, Dr Bhag Mal is still burning mid night lamp for the benefit of the TAAS and agricultural community of country.

At this occasion, once again I wish him a very happy birthday. I also wish him to have many more active years in services to the society. I sincerely pray to God to give him good health and long life, so that he can continue to guide and motivate young minds for overall development of agriculture in India. My family also joins me in wishing him best of the time ahead.



A Seetharam

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A Tribute to Dr Bhag Mal on his 80th Birthday

I have great pleasure in writing this note about Dr Bhag Mal with whom I have an association of more than 40 years.

On the occasion of his 80th Birthday, it is but apt that this publication is being brought out to celebrate his life and achievements. This is indeed very special; in Hinduism, it is believed that a person at 80 has passed 1000 full moons and is now truly on a spiritual path. They are considered blessed because they have persevered on a journey and it is an acknowledgement and celebration of the person's sheer experience in life.

I would like to briefly touch upon some of the facts from Dr Bhag Mal's illustrious life.

Born in Tatiri, Baghpat (earlier Meerut) on 1st April 1942, Dr Bhag Mal did his schooling in Baghpat around, BSc (Ag) and MSc (Ag Botany) from Agra University, Agra and his PhD from Jiwaji University, Gwalior. Thereafter, he has held several positions of increasing responsibility to make significant contributions in every position that he has held.

Currently, he is Trustee and Secretary, Trust for Advancement of Agricultural Sciences (TAAS). Just to mention a few of his key roles: National Coordinator for All India Coordinated Research Project on Unutilized Crops, ICAR-NBPGR 1987-1995; he was South Asia Coordinator of Bioversity International (earlier IPGRI/IBPGR) from 1998-2007 as well Global Focal Person for Tropical Fruits, Bioversity International, 2000-2006; and served as Senior Consultant, Asia Pacific Association of Agricultural Research Institutions (APAARI) also.

Dr Bhag Mal has been the recipient of many awards and honours and held several positions, some of which are President and Vice President of the Indian Society of Plant Genetic Resources (ISPGR), Indian Society of Range Management and Agroforestry (ISRM&AF), Indian Society of Genetics and Plant Breeding (ISGPB) etc. He has been Member of National Functional Committee on Plant Genetic Resources constituted by the ICAR from 2000-2007 and Member, Monitoring Team for Breeders' Seed Production of Forage Crop Varieties, and several other teams and committees where his inputs and contributions are immense. As many of us know, he was also Editor, APO Newsletter, Bioversity International for almost 10 years and Editor-in-Chief, Indian Journal of Plant Genetic Resources, New Delhi, 1990-95.



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Eightieth Birthday Celebration of Dr Bhag Mal

As Fellow of Indian Society of Range Management and Agro-forestry at ICAR-IGFRI, Jhansi; Indian Society of Plant Genetic Resources, Indian Society of Genetics and Plant Breeding, he continues to be passionate about these subjects. Dr Bhag Mal is a recipient of the Dr Harbhajan Singh Lifetime Achievement Award conferred by the Indian Society of Plant Genetic Resources (ISPGR). He has made many valuable contributions to the country in the areas of Plant Genetic Research, Plant Breeding, Research Management and Coordination and Biodiversity Conservation and for this we are all grateful to him. I have many fond memories of numerous interactions with Dr Bhag Mal on topics related to Plant Genetic Research and Neglected / Under-Utilized Crops and cherish the wonderful time spent with him. Dr Bhag Mal has many inspiring qualities: always kind and helpful, proactive and a role model; his experience and contributions is an inspiration to the younger generations. He has been not only a dear friend but is also a great philosopher.

On his 80th Birthday, I pray to the Almighty to bestow success and shower grace on Dr Bhag Mal and his family profusely for good health and peace. Dr Bhag Mal, I wish you many happy returns of the day! Stay blessed and the best to you!

Best wishes



Anand Kumar Singh

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Dr Bhag Mal: An Epitome of Scientific Excellence

It is my pleasure that I know Dr Bhag Mal, a high caliber plant breeder for the last so many years. As a professional plant breeder, he has immensely contributed to agricultural research and development for which he is credited with developing 6 varieties of forage crops and 10 varieties of underutilized crops. His acumen in successfully managing and coordinating several training programs and international projects is testimony to his temperament of positive leadership. To name a few are Indo-UK project on Forage Crops, Indo-US Project on Plant Genetic Resources, ADB funded project on Tropical Fruits, IFAD funded project on Neglected and Underutilized Species etc. Dr Bhag Mal chaired several scientific sessions during national and international conferences. His strong scientific temperament earned him responsibilities of membership in several high-level committees at the national and international level.

Dr Bhag Mal served as President, Indian Society of Plant Genetic Resources at ICAR-NBPGR, New Delhi; Indian Society of Range Management and Agroforestry at ICAR-IGFRI, Jhansi; and Vice President, Indian Society of Genetics and Plant Breeding, ICAR-IARI, New Delhi; Indian Society of Plant Genetic Resources, NBPGR, New Delhi; Indian Society of Plant Sciences, CCS HAU, Hisar. He is also credited with publishing more than 150 publications including research papers, strategy papers, books, book chapters and conference proceedings. Recognition further touched his feet in receiving several awards and honours including Dr Harbhajan Singh Memorial Award for his excellent services for PGR and Chancellor's Medal for being one of the two best students of all colleges of Agra University, Agra in BSc (Ag.).

For his untiring efforts and contributions, he was assigned the responsibilities of important international positions as Interim Executive Secretary and Senior Consultant, APAARI, Bangkok; South Asia Coordinator, Bioversity International (earlier IPGRI), Rome. He also served as ADG (Seeds) and ADG (Food and Fodder Crops), ICAR, New Delhi; Director, ICAR-IGFRI, Jhansi and as National Coordinator, ICAR-All India Coordinated Research Project on Underutilized Crops, NBPGR, New Delhi. Currently, he is proudly placed as the Trustee and Secretary, Trust for Advancement of Agricultural Sciences (TAAS), New Delhi.

I wish him good health in future.



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Eightieth Birthday Celebration of Dr Bhag Mal

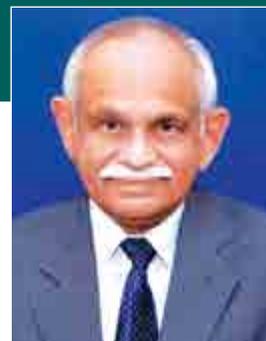
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80 Years and Still Going Strong...

At the outset, my heartiest greetings to Dr Bhag Mal on the completion of 80 years of a very meaningful life. I am sure he can look back at all the past years with a huge sense of satisfaction for having accomplished so much and continuing to be very active. Dr Bhag Mal, in his long and chequered career, has many singular achievements to his credit and made significant contributions to research, development and management in his chosen field.

As a plant breeder, Dr Bhag Mal developed a number of varieties of forage and underutilized crops at a time when not much attention was being given to such crops. He has handled several international projects in his scientific career e.g., Indo-UK Project on Forage Crops, Indo-US Project on Plant Genetic Resources, ADB Project on Tropical Fruits, to name a few. He has a vast experience of working in several international organizations like APAARI, Bangkok, Biodiversity International in addition to ADG (Seed/Food and Fodder Crops) at the ICAR HQs. and Director, ICAR-IGFRI, Jhansi.

In his professional career, he published more than 150 research papers and his work was recognized by several awards notably among them is the Dr Harbhajan Singh Memorial Award. He has served as President of Indian Society of Plant Genetic Resources and Indian Society of Range Management and Agroforestry. Currently, he is the Trustee and Secretary, Trust for Advancement of Agricultural Sciences (TAAS) and also taking care of the Pensioners' interest as President of the Pusa Association of Retired Agricultural Scientists (PARAS).

I wish Dr Bhag Mal and family a very long, active and healthy life.



Amaresh Chandra

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Born Leader: Remembering the Days Spent with Dr Bhag Mal

Scientific organization's administration and management differs in many ways. A leader for such organization needs to be the best amalgamation of strong technical background and administrative acumen. Dr Bhag Mal is a person with amalgamation of such rare qualities. Many of us worked/working at ICAR-IGFRI, Jhansi encountered with this great persona when he was serving in IGFRI as Head of Crop Improvement Division and subsequently as Director (Jan,1996 to April,1998). Back then with no access to information, as we now can browse and access information just by a mouse click, he was a source of information and knowledge to the scientific community of IGFRI. A man with bundle of knowledge, many times discussions with him paved ways for new ideas and/or helped to re-orient research methods for better outcomes. His first priority was always for scientific discussions irrespective of administrative work load and time period. He always encouraged scientists to have exposure of the best facilities/infrastructure available in forge research in the world. I still remember providing opportunities to 12 scientists and 3 technical staff to visit UK in a single year 1997. Additionally, the year 1997-98 was marked by several important milestones resulting in more output-oriented programs namely two varieties, one each in *berseem* (*Bundel Berseem-2*) and Oat (*Bundel Jai-2*), creation of three new units, viz., Consultancy Cell, PRA Cell and HRD unit, and formulation of Perspective Plan envisaging visionary approach up to 2020.

During his tenure, FAO has recognized the ICAR-IGFRI as its training centre and an International Training Program on Management and Utilization of Fodder Trees/Shrubs in Sub-tropical and Temperate Himalaya was executed during September 1997. Similarly, ICRA, The Netherlands has agreed to have joint field study with IGFRI. The Indo-Australian ACIAR project on *Stylosanthes* was finalized wherein I was personally involved and my nomination by him to be PI of the project (Improved resistance component) and later I had exposure of working at CSIRO, Australia has immensely helped shaping my future. Still, I am indebted to him for this wonderful scientific opportunity.

I remember him as ever smiling, cool and calm person. He was easily approachable and always had time to listen to the concerns of scientists. There are umpteen examples where I approached him and took his suggestions for furthering our research as well as career. He is a role model not for one but for generations of scientists. Besides, the encouragement



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Eightieth Birthday Celebration of Dr Bhag Mal



Staff of Crop Improvement Division with Dr Bhag Mal, Director, IGFRI, Jhansi

he gave to young scientists and his compassionate approach for them is worth emulating for any leaders. Many newly joined scientists benefitted by his leadership and expressed their complete potential for research and development activities of the institute. In recognition to his exemplary performance,

The name of Dr Bhag Mal, was recommended to the Governing Board of Editors of American Biographical Institute and also he was nominated as Member, Central Sub-Committee for release and notification of crop varieties, Ministry of Agriculture, Govt. of India and Uttar Pradesh State Varietal Release Committee, Lucknow.

I perceive great feeling while talking to him. The time spent with this great human being is ever etched in my mind and heart. I wish him a happy and healthy life.

All the best, Sir.

Anjula Pandey

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My Interaction with Dr Bhag Mal

I was one of the fortunate persons in the ICAR-NBPGR who got the opportunity to work with Dr Bhag Mal when he joined NBPGR as National Coordinator, AICRP on UUP during 1987-1995. He was instrumental and efficient nodal person in execution of the Indo-USAID Program when we almost all scientists and technicians got the opportunity to visit different organizations in USA under HRD program.

I am really impressed by his visionary approach, a genuine gentleman with a lot of qualities-humble, soft spoken, kind, calm and peaceful mind towards resolving issues.

His ability to manage many situations even under the times of stress with always calm and pleasure was one of his best approaches towards professional handling that made him rise so high in his career. I was closely working with him during 1987 in an event on Life Support Species that was organized at that time. We gained a lot while bringing an edited book on that event under his leadership of Dr Bhag Mal with other seniors.

I wish him a very happy and healthy life on his 80th birthday and with a joyful life ahead with his family members.



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Anupam Varma

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Dr Bhag Mal's 80th Birthday: April 1, 2022

Hearliest congratulations to Dr Bhag Mal ji for joining the Super senior Group.

I am very happy that the TAAS is celebrating Dr Bhag Mal's 80th Birthday. It is a great day to celebrate his outstanding scientific contributions, particularly the characterization of the germplasm and development of commercial varieties of underutilized crops, such as amaranth, buckwheat, rice bean, faba bean and winged bean, and path breaking basic understanding for genetic improvement of fodder oats, sorghum, pearl millet, barley and tropical pasture grasses for which he deserves great recognition. Dr Bhag Mal laid foundation for promotion of these nutri-rich crops in India. All these crops are important but of particular interest is amaranth for being an important source lysine-rich protein and high micronutrients. Amaranth was domesticated in India about 1000 to 800 BC but it remained neglected. The foundation laid by Dr Bhag Mal is paying dividend as the area and production of this important crop is gradually increasing.

Above all Dr Bhag Mal is an icon of modesty and pleasantly tranquil interactions.

I am highly thankful to the TAAS for giving me an opportunity to be a part of this important event.

Wishing Dr Bhag Mal a very Happy 80th Birthday and a wonderful time ahead.



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Rare Amalgam of Academic and Human Excellence

Dr Bhag Mal has contributed immensely as a plant breeder, scientist and research manager, both at national and international levels. I had the first opportunity to meet Dr Bhag Mal way back in 1988. I was doing my Masters in Botany at the University of Delhi, and my teacher (and subsequent PhD guide) late Professor HY Mohan Ram took us to the visit National Bureau of Plant Genetic Resources (NBPGR), as part of our course on “Plants for Humans”. Dr RK Arora was Director (Acting) and he had introduced us about activities under the ‘All India Coordinated Research Project on Underutilized Crops’, besides other divisions and programs. Dr Bhag Mal was the National Coordinator and he provided a brief overview of the work being undertaken under the AICRP (UUP). Back then I remember my first impression about Dr Bhag Mal was his cheerful disposition and affable nature. This impression was reiterated later when I joined ICAR-NBPGR in February 1994 as a Scientist, after completing my six-months training as an ARS inductee at ICAR-NAARM, Hyderabad. By this time, Dr Bhag Mal had the additional responsibility of heading the Project Implementation Unit, Indo-USAID PGR project, under which most scientists of the ICAR-NBPGR were sent for training abroad to acquire specialized subject matter training for 3-6 months. Not surprisingly Dr Bhag Mal was a much sought-after person, as he along under the leadership of then Directors of NBPGR, Padma Bhushan Dr RS Paroda and Dr RS Rana, ran the Indo-USAID project very successfully, benefitting almost all the scientists of NBPGR present in the duration of the project (1989-94).

Thereafter, Dr Bhag Mal left NBPGR to work at ICAR Hqrs/ICAR-IGFRI, Jhansi and later as South Asia Coordinator, Bioversity International (formerly, International Plant Genetic Resources Institute), Sub-regional Office for South Asia, New Delhi (1998-2007). During this period, I again got opportunity to work and interact with him under the ‘Centre of Excellence for Training on *in vitro* Conservation and Cryopreservation’ identified by the ICAR and Bioversity International. Three trainings were held during this period by the NBPGR (2002, 2006, 2007) supported by Bioversity International, under his coordination. His networking skills were very useful in inviting subject matter experts and trainees from more than 30 countries, making each of these trainings much sought-after and very successful.

Dr Bhag Mal has contributed in organization of many Seminars/Symposia/Conferences during his long and illustrious career. I had the opportunity to work closely in two instances. Dr Bhag Mal became the President of the Indian Society of Plant Genetic Resources (ISPGR) during 2007-2009



and I was the Joint Secretary. He took several initiatives to improve the functioning of the Society, including the induction of 'Fellows' and reframing the constitution. A major achievement was holding of National Symposium on 'Recent Global Developments in the Management of Plant Genetic Resources', organized jointly by the ISPGR and NBPGR at New Delhi. The meeting attracted more than 400 participants from the country and was a great success. Dr Bhag Mal displayed great leadership qualities and remained calm and composed even in very difficult situations that arise during the organization of such meetings. More recently (2016), when the 1st International Agrobiodiversity Congress (IAC, 2016) was organized under the dynamic vision and leadership of Dr RS Paroda, I was associated as the Member Secretary of the Core Organizing Committee. Dr Bhag Mal, then working with APAARI, was Member of the Technical and Publication Committee. I recall how he patiently provided his inputs and guidance, even under stressful and difficult situations. His biggest asset is to provide editing input in write-ups and documents, in the shortest period.

In fact, I got to closely learn about his editorial capabilities in two documents developed in the recent past. First was the 'Guidelines for Management of Plant Genetic Resources in India' published in 2016 where he was the Committee Chair and Dr RK Tyagi, then Head, Division of Conservation Division, ICAR-NBPGR was Member Secretary. The document took a long time to be developed and Dr Bhag Mal provided guidance in his usual patient manner. It was rewarding that the Guidelines were released by the Hon'ble Prime Minister of India, Sh. Narendra Modi ji, during the inaugural function of IAC 2016. The second was the 'Report on Policies and Action Plan for a Secure and Sustainable Agriculture' developed for the Principal Scientific Adviser to the Government of India, which was submitted in 2019. The report was developed by a multi-disciplinary team (including myself) under the Chairmanship of Dr Paroda. While multiple drafts were churned out, Dr Bhag Mal along with Dr Umesh Srivastava made sure that all corrections and suggestions were suitably incorporated in each draft, with his usual critical manner!

What is impressive about Dr Bhag Mal is that his commitment towards progress of science is apparent from the fact that he continues to work with passion even at a young age of 80. We congratulate him on achieving this milestone and wish him many more years of happiness and health so that he continues to serve Society as he is currently doing as Secretary of the TAAS. Age is barely a concern as long as one has curiosity in mind and love in the heart, and Dr Bhag Mal is endowed with both.

My best wishes and regards to him on his 80th birthday!



Arun K Joshi

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My Memoirs with Dr Bhag Mal Ji

Someone has said that “We don’t meet people accidentally instead we meet people for a reason.” This very well applies to my first meeting with Dr Bhag Mal in the All-India Wheat Workshop somewhere in the nineties. He was chairing a session on “Seed Production Strategy,” and I was as rapporteur. It was a pleasant meeting and a wonderful experience to learn from him how to connect with the audience with high respect. He allowed many participants to share their suggestions within the limited time slot and kept noticeably short concluding words for himself. I was surprised that although I was a rapporteur and quite young at that time, he allowed me to share my views. Since then, I have met him on many occasions, and each time I learned something new, especially on how to be professional with humbleness, and how to manage focused attention on the theme of deliberation.

Dr Bhag Mal is a person who always radiates positive energy. He carries a brilliant art of telling complex things in a simple language that can be understood easily even by a nonprofessional. His style of listening to others with a gracious smile and throwing smart tips in between the deliberation keeps him among a special class of people who keep away from the limelight but do not forge to enlighten others, especially the younger generation. In the company of a person like Dr Bhag Mal, we feel as if we are under a tree getting a mild breeze and protection from all kinds of stresses.

I consider myself highly lucky for having been able to get a chance to be in touch with a knowledgeable and humble person like Dr Bhag Mal. It would be my privilege to continue to be in touch with him and get his blessings.

I wish him a long and healthy life contributing to science and people.

With profound regards



Bhagmal@80

Eightieth Birthday Celebration of Dr Bhag Mal

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Dr Bhag Mal -Difficult to Match Him

It is my privilege and honor to express some of my feelings and impressions about Dr Bhag Mal whom I have been associated with over the last three decades. When I was moving from ICAR-CRRI (now ICAR-NRRI) Cuttack, I was advised by my senior colleagues to contact Dr Bhag Mal, the then Project Coordinator (UU&UEP), ICAR-NBPGR, for his support. After I joined ICAR-NBPGR in 1988, I noticed that he was very affectionate towards juniors, despite being a very senior person. After observing his kind behaviour, I often took the liberty of seeking his help and guidance on various research aspects. He was considerate enough to spare his valuable time and advised me on numerous aspects of my thesis work. Hence, I am highly grateful to him for providing me with support in the time of need.

Dr Bhag Mal has been a very capable scientist and research manager. As a Project Coordinator, AICRP on Underutilized and Under-Exploited Plants (UU&UEP), he successfully managed and coordinated the activities of the project which resulted in the development of several improved varieties and production technologies of these crops. In addition, he was given the responsibility of implementing the USAID Project at NBPGR (1989-1994). He executed the project activities of infrastructure development and collaborative research and training in US laboratories. He smoothly organized and coordinated the training and visits of around 100 scientists and technicians in different laboratories in the US under the HRD component of the Indo-US PGR Project. This shows his positive attitude towards coordination and managerial skills. After executing the project in NBPGR, he was entrusted with the responsibilities of Research Management Positions (RMPs) in ICAR as Assistant Director General (Seed) and Assistant Director General (Food and Fodder Crops) and was later appointed as Director, ICAR-IGFRI, Jhansi (1996). After serving the national system in different capacities, he received an opportunity to serve as South Asia Coordinator, IPGRI (now Bioversity International) and as Interim Executive Secretary, APAARI in the international system. By virtue of his hard work and sincerity, he has proven himself as an able researcher, coordinator and administrator at the national as well as international levels. At the age of 80 years, he is very active and is associated with the Trust for Advancement of Agricultural Sciences (TAAS) for the development of agricultural science in the country.

Dr Bhag Mal has the unique quality of being hardworking, affectionate and considerate towards all the sections of society. He possesses the capacity to tap the potential of untapped resources. He is very popular in the ICAR-NBPGR for his sincerity and amiable attitude towards everyone. On behalf of the ICAR-NBPGR, and my own behalf, I wish him a healthy, happy and productive long life. We also wish that he will guide all of us for many more decades.



Ashok K Patra

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Following Career Pathway of Dr Bhag Mal- A Researcher

I met Dr Bhag Mal in 1996 when I was working as a Scientist at the ICAR-Indian Grassland and Fodder Research Institute (IGFRI), Jhansi, and when he joined as Director of the institute. As a young Scientist with lot of enthusiasm and energy, I was very interested to collaborate and work on new ideas and make impact. That time ICAR-IGFRI was in the limelight for many outstanding developments. One such was the Indo-UK Project (DFID funded) led by IGFRI from India and Institute for Grassland & Environmental Research (IGER) from UK. Under this project, I was at IGER, UK on study-training and at that time Dr Bhag Mal visited UK along with Heads of the Divisions from IGFRI. During his visit, he also took me along with the Indian and UK team and we visited several UK Universities working on grasslands and forage production systems. It was an excellent time for me to know him and get involved deeply in the project. The IGFRI had seen the best time during Dr Bhag Mal's leadership as Director. He created a positive and highly productive environment with much collaboration, training and other opportunities in a very short time. It is a great pleasure to describe him as a highly amicable and accessible person with excellent aptitude and attitude.

During his time, I developed an excellent laboratory with advanced instrumentation for Nitrogen Dynamics Studies and has done excellent work in IGFRI. Then there was an advertisement from ASRB for the post of Sr. Scientist. It was in 1997 winter; I still vividly remember he was working in his office on a holiday outside his chamber under the sun. Dr VS Upadhyay, Head of the Division, Plant-Animal Relationship and late Dr Vinod Shankar, Head, Agroforestry Division were with him. I went to meet him for a request regarding forwardal of my application for Senior Scientist to ASRB. He warmly greeted me and told that he knows what for I went to him. Since I was doing so well at the IGFRI, he was not interested to leave me. But being so positive and helping in nature, he was happy to do it for me. I still remember the farewell function to me and his good words on the occasion, while I was leaving IGFRI for joining CIFE, Mumbai as Senior Scientist. I am so much thankful to him for his great support and encouragements in my early career which has gone a long way in my career. I still remember his words of motivation and wishes to do better. I often remember few persons with outstanding qualities, and he is one of them.

My family joins me to wish him all the best on his 80th Birthday and we pray for his happy, peaceful and long life.



BM Prasanna

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A Scientist with a Difference

My namaskar and congratulations to Dr Bhag Mal on his 80th birthday! I missed being there in Delhi to celebrate this important milestone in his life, but my best wishes are always there!

Dr Bhag Mal is an excellent scientist, extraordinary gentleman, and a wonderful human being. My association with him began through the TAAS (thanks to Dr Paroda Sir), and the bond deepened over the years. I had the great pleasure of working with him and the TAAS team, under the dynamic leadership of Dr Paroda Sir, for organization of the 12th Asian Maize Conference titled “Maize for Food, Feed, Nutrition and Environmental Security” (30 October – 1 November, 2014) in Bangkok, Thailand. The conference was jointly organized by APAARI, CIMMYT, FAO, and the Department of Agriculture, Thailand. Together, we conceptualized in the TAAS Office how the conference should be organized, how resources should be mobilized, and how the partners need to be effectively engaged. The event was indeed a great success, with participation of nearly 250 colleagues engaged in maize R&D globally, and particularly from the Asia-Pacific region. Despite all the pressures, what was remarkable was Dr Bhag Mal’s ever-smiling nature, team spirit, and tremendous attention to details. It was indeed a great pleasure to work with Dr Bhag Mal, an experience I will always cherish in my life!

Another important facet of Dr Bhag Mal’s personality is his enormous scientific experience and wisdom. Despite so many achievements in the field of genetics and plant breeding, he always remained humble and unassuming. His contributions in the areas of biodiversity conservation, characterization and utilization, genetics and breeding of fodder crops and underutilized crops, agro-forestry etc. will always remain important. He was not only an excellent scientist, but a great research manager, administrator, and institution builder.

Once again, Dr Bhag Mal, congratulations on completing eight decades of productive life, spreading cheer and happiness! I consider myself lucky to be touched by your love and affection as a fatherly figure! We will celebrate when we meet next in the TAAS Office!

May you go on to complete a century with that great smile, good health, peace, and happiness!!



BM Singh

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A True Friend For Over 50 Years, Not To Be Forgotten Ever

Before I pen down my reminiscences with regard to my association with my dear friend Dr Bhag Mal, I congratulate him on successful completion of “Eighty years” of an eventful journey, which is a milestone in its own right.

My association/acquaintance with Dr Bhag Mal dates back to late sixties, when I joined at Plant Introduction Division (PID), ICAR-IARI, New Delhi as Research Assistant’ and he joined as ‘Senior Research Assistant’ at PID, Jodhpur (Rajasthan) (1966-68). He visited many a times for official work and meeting every one of us. This is how our initial acquaintance bloomed. Later on, he joined as a Jr. Botanist at Plant Introduction Station, Amravati (Maharashtra) and remained there during 1973-76. It is also worth mentioning that Shri TG Kawalkar and Shri M Kazim both Assistant Botanists were also posted there when he joined. But before joining, Plant Introduction Station, Amravati, he also served as Assistant Plant Improvement Officer at ICAR-IGFRI, Jhansi during 1968-73.

Dr Bhag Mal never stopped at one place/institute. He grabbed every opportunity in his ‘Career Advancement’. He served as a ‘Geneticist” (Grasses) at the ICAR-IGFRI from 1976-87. Dr Bhag Mal’s scientific pursuits/acumen developed further and it travelled endlessly. He joined ICAR-NBPGR, New Delhi as Project Coordinator (Under-utilised crops) in 1987 and continued till 1995. During his tenure at the NBPGR, frequent interactions/meetings were taking place. Many a time, I was seeking his expert opinion on difficult issues. Our bonding was excellent.

During his stint at the NBPGR (1985-87), several National and International seminars/workshops were organized under the dynamic leadership of Dr Paroda, the then Director. Dr Bhag Mal and me were often given the task of ‘Publications and Publicity’ which we together aptly handled and executed.

Dr Bhag Mal’s chequered career continued further. He joined as ADG (Food and Fodder Crops), ICAR (1988-89) and as ADG (Seeds), ICAR in the year 1995. He never stopped. He joined as a Director, ICAR-IGFRI, Jhansi (1996-98). In his final stint, he got selected as Coordinator, Bioversity International Office for South Asia, New Delhi and remained there up to 2007. Currently, he is serving at the Trust for Advancement of Agricultural Sciences (TAAS) under the Chairmanship of Dr RS Paroda.



I also fondly remember my association with Dr Bhag Mal as member of 'Editorial Board' of ISPGR journal in the year 1989-92, 1993-95. He was 'Editor-in-Chief' of the journal.

To sum up, I always find Dr Bhag Mal a warm and gentle person with serene look. The entire staff at NBPGR always admired his wisdom and vision, and loved his enthusiasm and devotion towards work.

I wish Dr Bhag Mal his wonderful journey ahead. Here is a toast from me Dr Bhag Mal... CHEERS. Stay healthy, stay blessed.

A humble tribute to Dr Bhag Mal on his attaining the milestone (80 years)



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Reminiscing My Days with Dr Bhag Mal

It is an immense pleasure to congratulate Dr Bhag Mal on his 80th Birthday. I came to know Dr Bhag Mal in 1998 when I joined ICAR Headquarters as an Assistant Director General (Food & Fodder Crops). Dr Bhag Mal had earlier worked on this post and also as ADG (Seed), and the colleagues there remembered him for his knowledge of the subject and handling of the cases.

I came in close contact with Dr Bhag Mal after my joining as Director, ICAR-National Bureau of Plant Genetic Resources (ICAR-NBPGR) in 2000. I found him to be an outstanding scientist, store house of knowledge, particularly on the germplasm and improvement of forages, underutilized crops and tropical fruits. Further, he was always ready to help and guide on these subjects. He also helped NBPGR to arrange international training courses on germplasm management and biotechnology with the support of International Plant Genetic Resources Institute (IPGRI, now Bioversity International) and Food & Agriculture Organization of the UN. I feel honoured to have shared authorship with such a luminary as Dr Bhag Mal, in the publications based on the training courses.

While working at the ICAR-Indian Grassland & Fodder Research Institute (ICAR-IGFRI) and ICAR-NBPGR, he developed a number of improved varieties of forages and underutilized crops. He also generated basic knowledge helpful in plant breeding and on cytomorphology. His contribution as the Head, Project Implementation Unit, Indo-USAID PGR Project to monitor the construction of National Genebank/ NBPGR HQ building under the overall leadership of Dr RS Paroda, is a memorable one. Dr Bhag Mal has also left his footprints in international organisations, namely, Asia-Pacific Association of Agricultural Research Institutions (APAARI) and Bioversity International/ IPGRI.

He has also served the Indian Society of Plant Genetic Resources, Indian Society of Range Management & Agroforestry, and Indian Society of Genetics & Plant Breeding as President/Vice President and in other capacities. A common idiom, होनहार बिरवान के होत चीकने पात, applies to Dr Bhag Mal very appropriately as he has an outstanding academic career. He passed all examinations with a distinction and was merit scholarship holder throughout the educational career from matriculation onwards.

I feel proud to be associated with Dr Bhag Mal, an outstanding scientist, an able guide and organizer, always willing to support, and above all a great person with amiable nature. May God bless him with long life and good health so that he continues to serve science and society.



Bhagmal@80

Eightieth Birthday Celebration of Dr Bhag Mal

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A Well-known Figure in UUP, PGR and Forage Research

It is a pleasure to write about Dr Bhag Mal, whom I idolize, both professionally as well as personally, on the occasion of commemoration of his eightieth birthday.

Dr Bhag Mal joined the ICAR-NBPGR, New Delhi as the first Project Coordinator of All India Coordinated Research Project on Under Utilized and Under Exploited Plants (UU&UEP) in March 1987. At that time, the NBPGR was organizing an international symposium on Life Support Plant Species. I had the privilege of sharing my table with him while he was waiting for procurement of office furniture and I was waiting for space to relocate to create space for the Project Coordinator's office. Unassuming person as he is, Dr Bhag Mal did not mind sharing space with a junior most scientist. Being a dedicated worker, he started working late hours right from day one. Successful organization of the symposium and bringing out a book on its proceedings was probably Dr Bhag Mal's first assignment at the NBPGR New Delhi.

My next lesson came immediately after the symposium when Dr Bhag Mal brought out the First Annual Report of the Coordinated Project on UU&UEP without any assistance from a statistician or staff of Project Coordinating Unit and successfully organized the annual workshop of the coordinated project. During the Seventh Five Year Plan, Dr Bhag Mal gave direction to the Coordinated Project and prioritized different groups of plants for undertaking research at various centres. Realizing the constraints in funding of centres outside the agricultural research system, Dr Bhag Mal added eight new SAU based centres during the Eighth Five Year Plan. He also paved the way for shift in focus from perennial plants to annual crops. This foresight led to promotion of rice bean to the National Pulse Improvement Program and recognition of faba bean and pseudo cereals as important contributors to hill agriculture later on. Some people call underutilized (now called potential crops) as orphan crops. These crops will not be orphaned as long as people like Dr Bhag Mal are there to champion their cause.

Simultaneously, Dr Bhag Mal was also assigned the responsibility to assist Director, NBPGR to execute a mega Indo-USAID Project which entailed construction of the National Gene Bank at New Delhi, Medium-term Storage Facilities in ten different agro-climatic zones of the country, provision of polyhouses and training of entire scientific and technical staff. Flawless execution of this project is fondly remembered even after twenty-five years of completion of the project.

In the end, I would like to mention that Dr Bhag Mal is, without doubt, 'too good' a person and a professional. It was an honour to have been associated with Dr Bhag Mal. I wish and pray for his good health and look forward to his continued guidance in future.



Baleshwar Singh

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A Noble, Pious and Respected Scientist

I know Dr Bhag Mal for the last 32 years when I joined the ICAR-National Bureau of Plant Genetic Resources (NBPGR), New Delhi on transfer from ICAR Research Complex for NEH Region, Nagaland Centre. At that time, he was Project Coordinator (Under-utilized and Under-exploited plants). He was also a Nodal Officer/ Head, Project Implementation Unit, Indo-USAID PGR Project which aimed at strengthening the Indian National Plant Germplasm System both nationally and internationally.

He had been so kind to everybody whosoever met him in connection with USAID training to USA. He used to extend all kinds of help either for solving any problem with US Embassy or the ICAR etc. He is a very honest, sincere, hardworking, kind, and helpful person devoted to his duties/ work sincerely. I remember when he was working with Indo-USAID project, he has not shifted official telephone in his room but preferred to get it installed in his technical staff's room. He always used to go to make a call or to attend any phone call for him in staff's room. He was not eager to capture anything but interested in fulfilling the job sincerely and peacefully.

After leaving ICAR-NBPGR on his selection as Director, ICAR-Indian Grassland and Fodder Research Institute (IGFRI), Jhansi whenever he will visit ICAR-NBPGR, New Delhi, I have never seen any change in his behavior, gentleness and affection to all his old colleagues/ staff etc. I have always seen him with smiling face, with full of confidence and always busy in his assigned work. Till date he is working sincerely, honestly and with full devotion.

Dr Bhag Mal is a thorough gentleman and is an asset to the society. Though he has attained 80 years of age which is only a number, this doesn't hamper his daily/ routine activities even now, including all the scientific as well as social activities. He is fully devoted to his family responsibility and is fulfilling it gracefully.

We all are celebrating 80th birth Anniversary of Dr Bhag Mal. I wish him good health and peaceful and safe life during the coming days ahead. May God Bless You Sir. With Sincere regards to Dr Bhag Mal and his family.



Bhanwar Singh Rana

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Dr Bhag Mal Ji at Impressive Eighties - A Science Leader of High Intellectual Merit, Prodigious Abilities and Dynamism

Dr Bhag Mal ji is well known to me as a colleague from college days in JV College, Baraut (Uttar Pradesh), to his brilliant and successful career in ICAR, in International organizations and finally in the TAAS till his 80 years of age and beyond. He is an intellectual and is a man of wisdom, with admirable academic achievements, getting first rank in college throughout, and even among the top rankers in Agra University with many affiliated colleges. His high merit and calibre enabled him to get scholarship throughout his educational career. He has been composed, thoughtful and noble with instinctively decent and respectful behaviour. The college teaching staff and we, the friends, have always been his admirers.

His getting a recognition as recipient of Chancellor's Medal for being one of the two best students of all colleges in Agra University in 'BSc (Ag) course in 1962 is a true testimony and recognition of his academic excellence and knowledge. As a result , he was offered a lecturer's post in the same college to impart his comprehensive knowledge and quality of education to the PG students. After couple of years, he switched to research career in the ICAR-NBPGR and ICAR-IGFRI, Jhansi. He moved to the ranks of leadership positions as HoD, Division of Crop Improvement during 1986-87; National Project Coordinator, All India Coordinated Research Project on Underutilized Crops at ICAR-NBPGR (1987-1995) New Delhi; Assistant Director General (Seeds), and then Assistant Director General (Food and Forage Crops) during May 1988 - Feb 1989 at ICAR Hqrs, New Delhi and the Director, ICAR-IGFRI, Jhansi (Jan.1996 - March 1998).

Then, he moved to international position as South Asia Coordinator, Bioersity International (earlier IPGRI), Subregional Office for South Asia, New Delhi, India (April 1998-Dec. 2007), and Global Focal Person for Tropical Fruits, Biodiversity International 2000-2006; Senior Consultant, Asia-Pacific Association of Agricultural Research Institutions (APAARI) and then enthusiastically TAAS (Chairperson, Dr Raj Paroda ji) where he has been still untiringly giving unwavering support in the capacity of Secretary at 80 years of age.

During his tenure at the ICAR-NBPGR, New Delhi, he took additional challenging responsibilities to implement and supervise Project Implementation Unit of Indo-USAID PGR Project for 6 years (1989-95); as Country Coordinator of Indo-UK Forage Project at ICAR-IGFRI Jhansi that significantly contributed towards infrastructure and human resource development and collaborative research,



which considerably strengthened the Institute; and as Country Coordinator of Indo-Australian Project on *Stylosanthes*, enhancing forage productivity and production at farmers' fields. He also coordinated the implementation of 'ADB funded Project on Tropical Fruits' in 10 Asian countries, namely, Bangladesh, China, India, Indonesia, Malaysia, Nepal, Philippines, Thailand, Sri Lanka and Vietnam; assisted the implementation of ACIAR funded Project on 'Conservation of Tropical Fruit Species Germplasm' in five countries, namely, Australia, Malaysia, Thailand, Indonesia, and Vietnam, and coordinated implementation of IFAD-NUS Project on Small Millets in India and Nepal through MSSRF, Chennai, India.

He has also effectively and efficiently shouldered the responsibility as South Asia Coordinator, managed, coordinated and implemented Biodiversity International (formerly IPGRI) programs and projects in South Asia region and the activities of South Asia Network on Plant Genetic Resources (SANPGR), (1998 – 2007). *Real commendable and impressive. My salutation and lavish admiration to him.*

His research contributions are enormous, conceptual, innovative and exemplary with great diversity of crops, where normal scientist can get bog down and lost. He has been a passionate and resolute research scientist, an inspiring leader as National Project Coordinator (All India Coordinated Research Project on Underutilized Crops) and a capable Director, ICAR-IGFRI that enabled him towering achievements and enormous respect. He played the strategic role in creating a synergetic team work and provided commendable leadership with constructive ideas. He has published his large number research results in national and international journals. But his various reports and reviews particularly pertaining to international projects also do provide valuable information and insight for advancing agricultural production and achieve sustainability in tropical world. These recommendations have been very useful and impactful in concerned developing countries.

Dr Bhag Mal is an eloquent speaker and has capability to stimulate, sensitize and impress the audience by his lucid and logical conclusions in his presentations. His mission, his vision and his spirit have been very commendable throughout in discharging his responsibilities and assignments to achieve laudable and impactful results of utility. It is impressive and admirable, the way he successfully discharged his diverse responsibilities of national and international projects implementation and institute building activities and presently discharging his duty with utmost devotion and sincerity at the TAAS. This showed his peerless high capabilities, trustworthiness and efficiencies. In these diversities of different overlapping concomitant responsibilities, he learned fast, grasped the appreciable knowledge and delivered satisfying results expeditiously.

His luck is as his name, Bhag Mal (meaning "worrier of luck") being a very intelligent since childhood, talented and committed gentleman with high personal qualities, virtues and etiquettes on the one hand and his high capabilities, expertise, dynamism, versatility on the other hand, impressing and winning the hearts of his colleagues, and the credibility and confidence of his seniors at every stage of his responsibilities. This is one of the resourcefulness, nature gifts to him to move forward endlessly as trusted colleague of Dr Paroda ji. God has been very kind to



Dr Bhag Mal ji (in his own words) to proactively arrange new responsibility before he completes one. One can believe it, without any exaggeration but it is his competence, self-motivation, zeal to excel, his perfection in delivering laudable results for serving common goods. One can surprise to see nature of diversity of his assignments – many forage crops to many underutilized crops to leadership in many fruits trees production in SA countries, and would feel proud with his resilience, adaptability, fast learning and delivering admirable results of sustainable nature at every stage of his career and now in the TAAS. But I and even you get lost to know, “when he exactly superannuated from ICAR” but could feel ecstatic and jubilant that he now completed his 80’s of age on first April, 2022 and still, gracefully adhering to commitment in the TAAS. *Our Hearty Congratulations to him.*

My daughters Dr Sunita Rana (MD) in Dwarka, and Dr Anju Verma, PhD (Missouri State University), are immensely pleased to learn about the excellent achievements of revered Dr Bhag Mal ji during his career. They communicated that these really are marvellous and it is amazing that he still has been serving the agricultural and scientific communities with full devotion and enthusiasm. They said that his life time achievements are a source of inspiration as well as encouragement for all the youngsters. Their best compliments to him on attaining his 80 years of age. They wish him sound health and a long happy life.

Myself, my wife and my family’s lavish admiration and best wishes to Dr Bhag Mal ji, his wife and to his blessed family and pray Almighty to bestow them a long, healthy and successful happy life forever.



Brahma Singh

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A Simple Personality: An Affectionate Mentor

Dr Bhag Mal, a plant breeder by profession, immensely contributed towards agricultural research and development. He developed 6 varieties of forage crops and 10 varieties of underutilized crops; and successfully managed and coordinated several training programs and international projects including Indo-UK project on Forage Crops, Indo-US Project on Plant Genetic Resources, ADB funded project on Tropical Fruits and IFAD funded project on Neglected and Underutilized Species. He chaired/co-chaired scientific sessions in several national and international conferences. He had also been member of several high-level committees at the national and international level.

Dr Bhag Mal served as President, Indian Society of Plant Genetic Resources at NBPGR, New Delhi; Indian Society of Range Management and Agroforestry at IGRI, Jhansi; and Vice President, Indian Society of Genetics and Plant Breeding at IARI, New Delhi; Indian Society of Plant Genetic Resources, NBPGR, New Delhi; Indian Society of Plant Sciences, CCS HAU, Hisar. He has to his credit more than 150 publications including research papers, strategy papers, books, book chapters and conference proceedings. He is the recipient of several awards and honours including Dr Harbhajan Singh Memorial Award for his excellent services for PG and Chancellor's Medal for being one the two best students of all colleges of Agra University in BSc (Ag.) in 1962.

He held several important positions, namely, Interim Executive Secretary and Senior Consultant, APAARI, Bangkok; South Asia Coordinator, Bioversity International, Rome; Director, IGRI, Jhansi; ADG (Seeds) and ADG (Food and Fodder Crops), ICAR, New Delhi; and National Coordinator, All India Coordinated Research Project on Underutilized Crops, NBPGR, New Delhi. Currently, he is the Trustee and Secretary, Trust for Advancement of Agricultural Sciences (TAAS), New Delhi.

I wish and pray for his good health and look forward to his continued guidance in future.



CD Mayee

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Bhag Mal: A Scientist Friend

It is an excellent gesture from the TAAS to celebrate the 80th Birthday of Dr Bhag Mal, a true crusader of science and technology in agriculture but also a scientist friend.

I am thankful to Dr Umesh Srivastava, who in fact reminded me about this brief write up about him for a publication planned by the TAAS on the 80th Birthday of Dr Bhag Mal. I came in close contact with Dr Bhag Mal when I was Chairman, ASRB in New Delhi from 2004 to 2011. On several occasions, I took his help in talent search either for initial scrutiny or subsequent personal interactions. I found him extremely sincere in his approach for selection of a candidate. Never he allowed any personal biases in suggesting his views about the candidate. I found him a passionate person when it comes to judge the merit of a candidate.

Dr Bhag Mal has very wide experience of working not only in national institutions but also in international organizations. His consultancy at APAARI will be long remembered for making the organization vibrant as also the topic of biodiversity. He assisted the national organizations to develop guidelines for management of Genetic Resources.

Dr Bhag Mal is currently with the TAAS and serving the organization with devotion. Besides his scientific temper, he is a true humankind. He is always modest in approach, kind, fair and humane. Being extremely friendly, he quickly develops new friends, and I am one example when he made me his friend at the age of 65.

I wish him long and healthy life to serve the agriculture community through TAAS.



CP Singh

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Dr Bhag Mal: A Scientist, Guide and A Mentor

I got the opportunity to work with Dr Bhag Mal ji as Senior Scientist (Seed) when he was Assistant Director General (Seed) at the ICAR, Krishi Bhawan, New Delhi. He is a very nice person in guiding for official matters and has been very helpful in personal matters too.

Dr Bhag Mal ji is very soft spoken, excellent in behaviour with his colleagues. He was very punctual in attending the office and providing guidance in completing matters in day-to-day official working. He was very particular for completing the task assigned in time and used to advise all staff members to complete the assigned work in time.

I learned a lot from him about the working systems of the ICAR Hqrs. I pray to God for his happy, healthy and joyful future life.

Thank you very much.



DP Singh

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A Human Being Par Excellence

It is my pleasure to write about Dr Bhag Mal presently Secretary, TAAS and President, Pusa Association of Retired Agricultural Scientists (PARAS).

I met Dr Bhag Mal ji when he joined the ICAR as Assistant Director General (Seeds). Both of us used to sit in Rooms 213 & 215, respectively, in the Krishi Bhavan. That gave us opportunity to interact frequently. I found him a calm, cool but hard-working colleague. He is an enthusiastic scientist full of vast scientific ideas.

He joined the Council's service at the then Plant Introduction Division of ICAR-IARI, New Delhi. He had worked as the Head of the Crop Improvement Division and later as the Director at ICAR- Indian Grassland and Fodder Research Institute (ICAR-IGFRI), Jhansi, later as Project Coordinator, All India Coordinated Project on Under-utilized crops at ICAR-NBPGR, New Delhi. He contributed significantly at all the places, he served.

Later he joined as Coordinator IPGRI (now Bioversity International), South Asia Office, DPS Marg, New Delhi and worked there almost for 9 years. Currently, he is helping Dr RS Paroda, Chairman of the Trust for Advancement of Agricultural Sciences (TAAS) as Secretary, TAAS. He is also holding the position of President, PARAS – an association meant to serve the problems of retired scientist of the ICAR and its institutes.

Dr Bhag Mal has completed 80 years of age. I wish him happy birthday and a long healthy life. I wish him to continue serving Indian Agriculture in the years to come.



DR Malaviya

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A Man of Great Vision: One of the Architects of IGFRI

I was fortunate enough to have association with Dr Bhag Mal since my joining as Scientist at the ICAR- Indian Grassland and Fodder Research Institute (IGFRI), Jhansi in 1986. Soon he was given the responsibility of Head, Crop Improvement Division. I witness the SRCs of those days when each and every point of the technical program for the coming year was discussed and necessary corrections made. It was the kind of scientific leadership needed at that level.

Dr Bhag Mal left ICAR-IGFRI to join ICAR-National Bureau of Plant Genetic Resources, New Delhi, however we were constantly in touch with him to seek guidance. Dr Bhag Mal returned to Jhansi as Director, IGFRI to steer again the forage research. He has tremendous notable contributions to his credit during the period which included reshaping the projects having international funding. He supported me to create biotechnology lab for conducting my first AP Cess fund supported project. He mentored in getting the DBT network project also. The MTS module for conservation of germplasm of forage crops became functional only in his tenure. He gave us full freedom and support to see the unit functional. We were there to work with his constant motivation and our efforts made the MTS to run effectively for years together even in the conditions of Jhansi which had a lot of power failures/cuts and limited resources to get problems fixed.

Dr Bhag Mal has in-depth knowledge of managing plant genetic resources. He has immensely contributed to forage genetic resource evaluation, characterization and documentation. He possesses clear vision for forage crop breeding. He is guiding even today the forage breeding program as an ICAR nominee expert to the AICRP on forage crops. I am proud to be associated with him as expert in those National Group Meetings. His critical comments are milestones in shaping the breeding programs. I have been consistently impressed by his attitude, dedication and his outstanding contributions to science exhibiting the highest levels of productivity. I am so proud to be led forward by a person like Dr Bhag Mal, who is not only a true researcher but is also an amazing research manager. I learned a lot from him, and whatsoever little contribution I could make to forage science, was because of his initial training and continued guidance throughout my career. It has been a privilege to work under his leadership when he was Head of Crop Improvement Division and later as Director of the Institute. I get to learn something new from him every day.

I wish that scientific fraternity, particularly the forage scientists, are benefited with his long and rich experience, intellectual capability and strong drive for many years to come.

Thank you, Sir!



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Eightieth Birthday Celebration of Dr Bhag Mal

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एक कृषि वैज्ञानिक: एक विलक्षण प्रतिभा

डॉ. भागमल जी के 80वें जन्मदिवस की बहुत बहुत शुभकामनाएं! 1 अप्रैल सन् 1942, ग्राम 'टटीरी' जिला (उत्तर प्रदेश) में जन्मे डॉ. भागमल जी के बारे में जो भी कहा जाये, शायद बहुत कम ही होगा। उनकी स्कूली शिक्षा बड़ौत, जिला बागपत से सम्पन्न हुई। उनकी उच्च शिक्षा कृषि क्षेत्र में आगरा विश्वविद्यालय (उत्तर प्रदेश) से क्रमशः 1962 में बीएससी (कृषि) एवं 1964 में एमएससी (कृषि वनस्पति विज्ञान) में उच्चतम अंकों में प्राप्त करने के बाद 1985 में जीवाजी विश्वविद्यालय ग्वालियर (मध्य प्रदेश) से पीएचडी की उपाधि प्राप्त की।

एनबीपीजीआर दिल्ली में आने के साथ ही उन्होंने भारतीय कृषि अनुसन्धान परिषद् में एडीजी (एफएफसी) एवं एडीजी (सीड) का कार्यभार संभाला। वे प्रतिभा के इतने धनी हैं कि वे भारतीय कृषि अनुसन्धान परिषद् – भारतीय चरागाह एवं चारा अनुसन्धान, झाँसी के निदेशक रहे और बाद में बायोवर्सिटी इंटरनेशनल में दक्षिण एशिया समन्वयक के पद पर रहे। तत्पश्चात् वे वरिष्ठ सलाहकार बतौर अपारी (एशिया पैसिफिक असोसिएशन ऑफ एग्रीकल्चरल रिसर्च इंस्टिट्यूट) में 2006 से कार्यरत थे। अभी टॉस के ट्रस्टी एवं सचिव के पद पर कार्यरत हैं।

मैं माननीय डॉ. साहेब जी के सम्पर्क में एनबीपीजीआर में आया, तो उनके व्यवहार एवं मृदुभाषी होने से बड़ा प्रभावित हुआ। उन्होंने सदा एक उच्च श्रेणी के इन्सान होने का परिचय दिया। वे हमेशा सभी की सहायता एवं सहयोग के लिये तत्पर रहते हैं। जो भी उनसे बन पड़ता है, वे हमेशा करते हैं।

डॉ. भागमल जी के जीवन दर्शन का अवलोकन करें तो वे सदा शान्त-स्वभाव में रहते हैं। उनका निर्मल स्वभाव हमेशा मुस्कुराता रहता है। उनका गूढ़-ज्ञान उनके प्रचार-प्रसार, उनके प्रकाशन की कला एवं भाषण की शैली सभी प्रभावित करने वाले हैं। उनके वक्तव्य उल्लेखनीय तथा अनुकरणीय है।

यही कारण है कि उन्होंने जीवन के 80वें साल तक अपनी प्रतिभा से कृषि क्षेत्र के सभी कार्यों को सर्वोच्चता प्रदान की। मैं उनके भावी स्वस्थ जीवन की उन्नति के लिए कामना करता हूँ और विश्वास करता हूँ कि उनका कृषि क्षेत्र में योगदान सदा अग्रणी रहे।



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A Charismatic Scientist As I Know

I know Dr Bhag Mal Ji ever since he was Head, Crop Improvement Division at the ICAR-Indian Grassland and Fodder Research Institute (ICAR-IGFRI), Jhansi. Over the years, I found Dr Bhag Mal a very dedicated, output oriented, down to earth and sincere researcher and research manager. As an active researcher, Dr Bhag Mal made very significant contributions in fodder crops and underutilized plants research and development. During his professional career, he developed six (6) forage crops varieties and contributed for evolving ten (10) varieties of underutilized crops. He occupied several prestigious positions such as National Coordinator, Underutilized crops, ICAR-NBPGR, New Delhi; Assistant Director General (Seeds), Assistant Director General (Food & Fodder Crops), ICAR, New Delhi; Director, ICAR- IGFRI Jhansi; and South Asia Coordinator, Bioversity International, South Asia Office, New Delhi.



GSFRED News Letter Release Function at TAAS Office on 29th October, 2018



Bhagmal@80

Eightieth Birthday Celebration of Dr Bhag Mal

Dr Bhag Mal has the privilege of coordinating several international research programs and projects in the field of forage and underutilized crops research and development. To name a few significant ones include: Indo-USAID project on improvement of gene bank; Indo-UK forage program; Indo-Australia project on *Stylosanthes*; Asian Development Bank funded project on tropical fruits in 10 countries; ACIAR funded project on conservation of tropical fruit species germplasm and IFAD-NUS project on small millets. Dr Bhag Mal also had the unique honour of holding coveted positions in professional societies. He served as President, Indian Society of Plant Genetic Resources at the ICAR-NBPGR, New Delhi and also the President, Indian Society of Range Management and Agroforestry at IGFRI Jhansi.

The highly respected and decorated scientist in the field of plant genetic resources and range management and agroforestry completed 80 years of his very successful life journey on April 1, 2022. The Trust for Advancement of Agricultural Sciences (TAAS) celebrated his 80th birthday to pay a tribute to his unparalleled contributions in forage science in general and special contributions to the growth of the TAAS as its Secretary. Because of Dr Bhag Mal's meticulous planning and execution traits, the TAAS could organize several dialogues on topical subjects related to agricultural research, development and policy and also bringing out several proceedings and publications well in time, for use of scientific community and civil society.

We wish Dr Bhag Mal Ji a very happy, healthy and prosperous time ahead.



HS Gupta

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Dr Bhag Mal: Combination of Intellectual, Noble, Gentle and Affable

I am delighted to write about Dr Bhag Mal on the occasion of his 80th B'day on April, 01, 2022. Dr Bhag Mal, an outstanding scientist, is a mild and suave gentleman who always wears a smile on his face. My first interaction with Dr Bhag Mal was when he was Project Coordinator, AICRP on Underutilized and Underexploited Crops at the ICAR-NBPGR, New Delhi where he played a key role in bringing out the importance of these crops in nutrition as well as alternate source of energy provided by these important but neglected crops and later when he was heading ICAR-Indian Grassland and Fodder Research Institute, Jhansi as its Director. Dr Bhag Mal's role as Coordinator, South Asia at the International Plant Genetic Resource Institute (IPGRI) at New Delhi is well-known and the same was later re-christened as Bioversity International. Dr Bhag Mal's role as Senior Consultant, APAARI helped in establishing APAARI's presence in India which was joined by many States Agricultural Universities as well as institutions. After retiring from the active service Dr Bhag Mal has dedicated himself to serving the community of agricultural scientists through the Trust for Advancement of Agricultural Sciences (TAAS), New Delhi.

I want to place on record my appreciation to the TAAS headed by *Padma Bhushan* Dr RS Paroda for taking initiative to celebrate 80th Birthday of Dr Bhag Mal.

I wish Dr Bhag Mal great health, happiness and long life.



Bhagmal@80

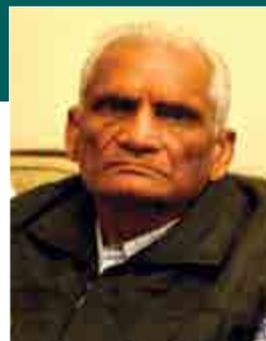
Eightieth Birthday Celebration of Dr Bhag Mal

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(A Neighbour)

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Dr Bhag Mal: A Wise Scientist and A Simple Man

Today, I feel honoured to express my thoughts about Dr Bhag Mal, an eminent Agricultural Scientist par excellence on his 80th Birthday.

I know Dr Bhag Mal for two decades and have seen him from close corners. Besides his strong scientific credentials and immense contributions to Agricultural Science, I can vouch for him that he has been an adorable husband, a responsible father and caring grandfather. The strong value system, he inculcated in the family is worth copying.

His contribution to Civil Society with his value-added suggestions is always appreciated by one and all. Last but not the least, his humility, dedication, and strong commitment has been exemplary and appreciated by all us in our residential society.

I wish him many more years of successful life and he continues to guide the young generation, going forward.

With best wishes



JC Katyal

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My Congratulatory Message to Dr Bhag Mal on his 80th Birthday

Dr Bhag Mal who on 01 April 2022 completed 80 golden years of his life, I send my greetings and best wishes on this happy occasion.

I know Dr Bhag Mal since 1996. He at that point in time was working as Director, Indian Grassland and Fodder Research Institute (IGFRI) Jhansi and I was assigned to Central Research Institute for Dryland Agriculture (CRIDA) Hyderabad. I sought his advice on choice of some species of forages and grasses suiting semi-arid tropics. His suggestion on selecting, testing, and introducing self-generating and self-seeding species proved highly practicable. Spread on introduction was very fast since these types saved the farmers from the hassle of planting and replanting job. More closely, I came to know about Dr Bhag Mal, when he started working as Secretary, Trust for Advancement of Agricultural Sciences, New Delhi. During my visits to the TAAS Office and meetings chaired by Dr RS Paroda, Chairman TAAS, I found him making his interventions clearly and succinctly. He was very emphatic but very polite in making his point in a highly systematic and logical way. I was highly impressed about his overall comprehension and depth of knowledge on contemporary and futuristic needs of agriculture research and development. Dr Bhag Mal is endowed with clear vision and clarity of thought. These qualities became clearer when I have chance to work with him on organization of a TAAS convened Brain Storming Session on Regenerative Agriculture in 2021. His excellent writing skills came to the fore by reading the way proceedings and recommendations of this BSS were captured, articulated, published and circulated by TAAS.

Apart from professional and writing skills, I found in Dr Bhag Mal a wondrous person and a phenomenal human being. He is a gentleman to the core and a man personifying dedication and hard work. His humbleness and always willing nature of extending a helping hand with a smile has endeared him to one and all.

I send my best wishes and congratulation to Bhag Mal for completing 80 years of his life. I, above all, extend greetings and prayers for a very happy, healthy, and prosperous life so that we can celebrate many more of his birthdays in times to come.



JK Jena

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My Impression About Dr Bhag Mal: A Rare Personality of High Esteem

Dr Bhag Mal, presently the Secretary of the Trust for Advancement of Agricultural Sciences (TAAS), New Delhi, with whom I had the opportunity of interaction only for a couple of occasions, that too in some of the programs of TAAS. Being a scientist of the Fisheries Science discipline rather I did not have any opportunity to meet him on earlier occasions. However, those small interactions for a few minutes could provide enough insight about him as a person of the highest esteem. During the past five years while I started knowing more and more about him in every interaction and also knowing about his expertise from the information available in the public domain I could know about his vast experience, strong expertise and outstanding caliber. It was hard to believe how an individual with such an experience of working in different coveted positions including Assistant Director General at ICAR, Director of the ICAR-Indian Grassland & Fodder Research Institute, National Coordinator of All India Coordinated Research Project on Underutilized Crops, South Asia Coordinator of the Bioversity International, Global Focal Person for Tropical Fruits at Bioversity International and a senior consultant of Asia-Pacific Association of Agricultural Research Institutions (APAARI) can be so humble, down-to-earth, diligent and organized.

His research contributions to plant genetic resource management, genetics and plant breeding have been greatly acknowledged nationally and also in the international arena. Further, the contributions made by him through his association with different national-level committees and exemplary leadership provided through different professional societies have remained the hallmarks.

Active association of Dr Bhag Mal with the science for the cause of the society through an organization like TAAS, which is being steered by Dr RS Paroda, Former Secretary, DARE and Director General, ICAR as Founder Chairman for the last two decades, is also a testimony the commitment and trustworthiness that he possesses at 80 years of age.

I wish him many more years of his active and healthy life. May God bless him and be with him to guide and serve the people through his continued association with TAAS!



JL Karihaloo

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A Great Motivator: A Visionary Beyond the Visible

It gives me immense pleasure to record my impressions of Dr Bhag Mal, my colleague and a friend of many years. I came in contact with Dr Bhag Mal in 1979 on my first posting as an ICAR scientist at the ICAR-Indian Grassland and Fodder Research Institute (ICAR_IGFRI), Jhansi where he was working as a scientist in the Crop Improvement Division, and later became its Head. Even during those young days, Dr Bhag Mal was known for his hard work, sincerity and knowledge of the subject. These qualities truly reflected his brilliant academic career having been a first division distinction holder from high school to the master's level.

My next association with Dr Bhag Mal was at the ICAR-National Bureau of Plant Genetic Resources (ICAR-NBPGR), New Delhi where I shifted in 1988 and he was then working as National Coordinator, All India Coordinated Research Project on Underutilized Crops and later was bestowed with the additional responsibility of establishing the National Genebank under the massive Indo-USAID PGR Project. The underutilized project succeeded in introducing several lesser-known crops into the agricultural research system, and the National Genebank project initiated and guided by Dr RS Paroda led to the modernization of plant genetic resources management throughout the ICAR system. It also triggered upscaling of genetic resources research and development activities in animal and fish sectors.

My more intimate association with Dr Bhag Mal started when he joined Asia-Pacific Association of Agricultural Research Institutions (APAARI) as Senior Consultant, and where I was serving as Coordinator of the Agricultural Biotechnology Program. His contribution in organizing policy dialogues, training programs and other group activities, and bringing out publications comprising proceedings of meetings and workshops, brochures, newsletters, and status reports on adoption of agricultural technologies in the Asia-Pacific region, have been acknowledged by all APAARI stakeholders. At the TAAS, Dr Bhag Mal has been rendering equally excellent service and his untiring efforts have led to significant expansion of TAAS activities. I have found working with him a very pleasant and rewarding experience.

On his birthday, I wish Dr Bhag Mal good health and happiness and look forward to his continued contribution to the cause of Indian agriculture research and development.



JN Gupta

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My Long Journey with Dr Bhag Mal

It is my proud privilege to write something about Dr Bhag Mal ji with whom I was associated at the ICAR-IGFRI, Jhansi in 1969 except for a few years when he left Jhansi and joined at Amravati. His dynamic leadership, helping attitude and positive approach is definitely unforgettable. I worked as Research Assistant with him when he was Assistant Plant Improvement Officer (Grasses) where I found his dedication towards his duties, and friendly behaviour with everybody. After 3-4 years, he left IGFRI and joined as Junior Botanist at the ICAR-IARI Regional Centre, Amravati (Maharashtra) but after a few years, he again came back to IGFRI Jhansi as Senior Plant Breeder and again I worked with him. Fortunately, we were neighbours for several years. His behaviour was always friendly and supportive with his juniors and peers. Since then, we have not developed only family relations but strong affinity too.

In early 1987 with the joining of Dr Panjab Singh ji as Director, ICAR-IGFRI, a recreation club was established at the institute and Dr Bhag Mal was made its President and he included me in his team as Treasurer. After a few months, he got selected as Project Coordinator (Underutilized Plants) at the ICAR-NBPGR, New Delhi. Due to his courtesy, faith and trust, my bonding with him remained intact and fortunately I continued scientific association with him as I had the responsibility of work on underutilized plants at the IGFRI, Jhansi. Due to his trust and affection, I received recognition in annual workshops, and representation in project monitoring committee, etc.

I know that looking to his immense capability and positive attitude, he was also given the additional responsibility as Coordinator, Indo-USAID PGR Project and under that project, I was also given opportunity to visit USA for two months on the recommendation of Dr Bhag Mal. He also included me as a co-author with him for the chapter 'Forage Crops and Grasses' in the 6th revised edition of Handbook of Agriculture (ICAR). In the beginning of 1996, he again came back to ICAR-IGFRI as Director. During the tenure, besides number of opportunities he gave me, he has also nominated my name for CCPI (NATP). After my retirement in April 2008, I got settled at Indirapuram, Ghaziabad which enabled me to meet him whenever I desire.

In addition, he was also given an additional responsibility at the ICAR headquarters for number of years which clearly indicates that most of the top dignitaries liked him because of his immense



capability and dedication to work. As I saw him in various capacities and found that he has an ocean of love in his heart and that love he used to distribute free to the younger generation of scientists. I can say with proud that I have been/am associated with such a noble personality which is seldom seen around us. I pray the Almighty for his healthy and cheerful long life. In the last I would say that an elder brother ever does the maximum for the betterment for his younger brother, though younger brother felt his love but never got the opportunity to express his gratitude publicly.

Hence, I sincerely thank Dr RS Paroda, Chairman, TAAS for this publication on 80th birthday of Dr Bhag Mal in which I could be able to express my heartfelt feelings about him.



Bhagmal@80

Eightieth Birthday Celebration of Dr Bhag Mal

Jai C Rana

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Dr Bhag Mal: As Seen by My Prism

At the outset, I extend my best wishes to Dr Bhag Mal on completing a journey of his life over 80 years.

I personally know him for the last 25 years when he was Project Coordinator, AICRP on underutilised crops and also have frequent interaction as Secretary, Trust for Advancement of Agricultural Sciences (TAAS). He has been a bright student throughout his academic career and contributed exceedingly well to scientific pursuit such as developed 6 forage crop varieties, contributed towards development and release of many varieties of underutilized crops and also PGR management.

As research manager, he has contributed significantly as National Project Coordinator (Underutilized Crops); Director, ICAR-Indian Grassland and Fodder Research Institute; Assistant Director General (Seeds) and Assistant Director General (Food and Fodder Crops) at national level and South Asia Coordinator, Bioversity International (now Alliance of BI and CIAT), South Asia Office, New Delhi at International level. He was instrumental in the implementation and coordination of important international projects such as Indo-USAID PGR Project, Indo-UK Forage, Indo-Australian Project, ADB Tropical Fruits in 10 countries, ACIAR funded Project on Conservation of Tropical Fruit Species Germplasm in five countries, IFAD-NUS Project on Small millets, etc.

While working with him, I have found Dr Bhag Mal very cool and composed personality. He was/ is always ready to help as when as requested. He maintains very good relationship with his subordinates and mentor them to perform their the best.

I wish Dr Bhag Mal peaceful, joys and healthy life ahead.



Jai Singh

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Dr Bhag Mal: A Man of Compassion and Benevolence

I had sweet and most pleasant opportunity to be in association with Dr Bhag Mal Ji at the ICAR-Indian Grassland and Fodder Research Institute (IGFRI) for a very long period (1969 -1987). Besides the respective research program, we worked together in a team constituted by the Director, ICAR-IGFRI for accomplishment of various important tasks viz., planning, layout and development of research farm; augmentation of surface and ground water resources; designing, layout, construction and networking of farm irrigation system; face-lifting of IGFRI campus; conceptualization, need based development and installation of research and development infrastructure at the farm and in laboratories; architecture diploma and short training courses in 'Forage Production and Utilization'; organizing seminars, symposia, conferences, exhibitions, institute outreach program in and out of institute; operationalization of UNDP Project on Forages; constitution of institute Grievance Cell; organizing ICAR games and *Bharat Darshan* programs, founding employees cooperative society and recreation club, etc.

My observations and learning from his abilities and capabilities

I found him ever cheerful with smiling face, active, self-disciplined, creative, an initiator, persistent, knowledge resourceful, insightful, productive, tireless worker, industrious, problem-solution analyst, activity controller, task manager, valuable contributor to science and technology, honest, friendly to all, responsibility reliable, talented, loyal to science and department, broad-minded, magnanimously trainer as well as a great inspiring figure for one and all. His shared success is always staying in our minds and heart. Dr Bhag Mal assisted me in inferencing experimental results and putting them in order during my PhD thesis writing. Still now, our the then team members, whenever get a chance of meeting together never forget to loud on learnings from Dr Bhag Mal about research / activity concept generation, concept detailing, its physical meaning and need, molding public curiosity, self-questioning, critical thinking, confidence building and colleagues motivation for reaching to results.

Academic Distinctions and Professional Research Attainments

At college level, he earned several academic distinctions and contributed significantly towards research management in various capacities (Head, Division of Plant Improvement, ICAR-IGFRI,



Jhansi; National Coordinator (Underutilized Crops), ICAR-NBPGR, New Delhi; Assistant Director General (Food & Fodder), ICAR, New Delhi; Assistant Director General (Seeds), ICAR, New Delhi; Director, ICAR-Indian Grassland and Fodder Research Institute (IGFRI), Jhansi; South Asia Coordinator, Biodiversity International (now Alliance of BI and CIAT), South Asia Office, New Delhi and so on. He owned significant scientific achievements and at ICAR-IGFRI, he developed 6 forage crop varieties in oats (IGFRI-2688, IGFRI-3021, JHO-810), *Dinanath* grass (*Bundel-1*, *Bundel-2*), and anjan grass (IGFRI-3108) and architected 'Diploma Course' and 'Short-term Training Courses in Forage Production and Utilization'. Dr Bhag Mal held prestigious position in professional societies and won several National and International honours and recognitions.

My wife joins me to congratulate Dr Bhag Mal, his wife and family for his most successful long-life journey of 80 years. We wish him a continued healthy, happy and prosperous life. Based on my experience living with Dr Bhag Mal as a professional colleague and a family friend, I put below his unique qualities as : three-dimensional creativeness, deep thinker- what, why, when, how, for whom; inspiring and motivation to colleagues;and intelligence-problem, solution analyst.



Jitendra P Srivastava

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Dr Bhag Mal : A Gentle Giant

Hearliest congratulations Dr Bhag Mal on your 80th Birthday as you have touched so many lives, shared so much of wisdom and impacts of your life-long work is commendable. You have made exceptional help in establishing National Gene Bank at the ICAR-National Bureau of Plant Genetic Resources (NBPGR), New Delhi; supporting diversified agriculture to improving the availability of food, strengthening agricultural knowledge and information systems, promoting climate-smart agriculture and catalysing national and international cooperation in achieving sustainable agricultural development.

Your leadership and contributions to agriculture have benefited farmers in India and around the globe in improving their livelihoods, quality of life and have significantly helped in reducing human hunger and malnutrition.

It is time to celebrate the very special person you are. It is my pleasure to felicitate you on this special day and wishing you all the happiness you deserve.



Bhagmal@80

Eightieth Birthday Celebration of Dr Bhag Mal

KC Bansal

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Dr Bhag Mal – An Endearing Personality

It's been a pleasure for me to have known Dr Bhag Mal for the last several years. He is an endearing, accomplished personality with excellent virtues. I consider myself fortunate to have interacted with him on various occasions. He always makes you feel friendly, comfortable and so special.

I find Dr Bhag Mal as a silent worker, possessing deep knowledge on various aspects of science and always deeply engrossed in preparing scientific documents, particularly for the benefit of the policy planners. He has eminently disseminated vast knowledge and experience through his writings from time to time covering a wide range of subjects. With his enthusiastic and energetic disposition, he adds great value to any document that he becomes involved in. Dr Bhag Mal feels at ease both in the supportive role as well as leadership role.

People tend to retire by 60-65 but Dr Bhag Mal has more energy even at 80 than most of us. We feel so proud of him. I personally wish him all good health, and wish we continue gaining from his pleasing persona for a long time.



KS Varaprasad

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Dr Bhag Mal: Soft Boss and Sparkling Scientist

I was fortunate to know about Dr Bhag Mal after I joined ICAR-NBPGR, Regional Station, Hyderabad in 1986. I found Dr Bhag Mal as the most soft-spoken person, highly amicable and knowledgeable particularly in the field of plant genetic resources. He is very approachable to youngsters and nurtured several young scientists during his leadership assignments nationally and internationally. I am fortunate to have his advice on several occasions and they were very practical and forward looking. I had once an opportunity to participate in a session chaired by him in a conference. I just took a draft to him for his sessions on proceedings of the session. I was amazed to see his drafting ability with clarity of expression with focus on action points. Was fortunate to have his guidance since then and I am immensely benefited by his guidance.

Dr Bhag Mal's contribution as a leader and as a plant breeder was immense when he was the National Coordinator of AICRP on Underutilized crops. His contributions to this group of crops now widely called as 'Future Crops' or 'Potential Crops' is very significant and gained prominence in the recent past in the context of agro-ecological or sustainable or regenerative agriculture. Such was his vision several decades ago to this important group of crops.

Dr Bhag Mal's research leadership contribution to ICAR is very significant, which elevated him to various senior positions at national and international level. Contributions of Dr Bhag Mal to one of the largest projects, the Indo-USAID project on Plant Genetic Resources under the able leadership of Dr RS Paroda triggered various developments in the field of PGR and elevated the position of India to a global leader. Dr Bhag Mal inspired me to the core while he was working as South Asia Coordinator, Bioversity International, Rome. I am also impressed to see the roadmap with strong foundation was developed by Dr Bhag Mal as Interim Executive Secretary and Senior Consultant, APAARI, Bangkok. Dr Bhag Mal is immensely contributing currently as Trustee and Secretary, Trust for Advancement of Agricultural Sciences (TAAS), New Delhi.

Dr Bhag Mal is an able administrator, an approachable leader nurturing youngster, an extraordinary communicator and a visionary who contributed to the Indian and International agriculture in general and PGR in particular.

I am extremely happy and thankful to TAAS for giving me this opportunity of participating celebration of Dr Bhag Mal's 80th Birth Day. We all wish him happiness and health and continue to contribute to the domain of global agriculture.



Khem Singh Bhati

(A Neighbour)

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Dr Bhag Mal Ji, the Great Agricultural Scientist !!

Birthdays are one of the most significant celebrations in one's life and the celebration of 80th birthday is yet much more a very special occasion in life. While we celebrate 80th birthday of the Most Reverend Professor (Dr) Bhag Mal ji, we pray the Angles to shower upon him various sorts of good wishes and all the blessings from the God.

We bow and thank the Almighty, for having blessed the family, relatives and friends of Prof Dr BhagMal for providing them a noble son of God as a great mentor, distinguished guide, caring patron, strong protector, exemplary role-model and a sturdy umbrella providing shelter during the hardest moments. He is always a smiling, cheerful, bubbling with golden heart and sweetest words, not only for family but all the people in his proximity.

Very few people have the luck, as we are blessed with, of having in Dr Bhag Mal, a strong supporter, ardent motivator encouraging guide, protecting mentor, an emulative role model, compassionated educator and a persuable leader.

His distinguished brilliance, devoted teaching, guiding research to hundreds of agricultural scientists in India and abroad, has brought golden laurels to motherland, in fabulous quantitative and qualitative encomiums. The country is proudly enriched by his inborn talent and academic leadership. His dedicated contribution to the Green Revolution will remain engraved in golden words in the history of the agricultural world.

May the light of his enlightened guidance and wisdom, illuminate the green-fields in the country and the world at large.

May I conclude by saying:

हजारों साल नरगिस अपनी बेनूरी पे रोती है, बड़ी मुश्किल में होता है चमन में दीदावर पैदा!!

Amen!



ML Jat

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Dr Bhag Mal: As I Know

It's very difficult to summarize the personality of a fascinating, inspiring, cool, systematic and committed eighty years young person in words. Dr Bhag Mal has been a guiding force for me over past 2 decades. I recall my first interaction with Dr Bhag Mal almost 2 decades back when he was head of Bioversity international (formerly, International Plant Genetic Resources Institute). Thanks to Dr SK Sharma, the then Director of Project Directorate for Cropping Systems Research (currently Indian Institute of Farming Systems Research) who is a close friend of Dr Bhag Mal and my Director at that time who took me along to introduce Dr Bhag Mal. On that very first day, I felt very inspired with full of new energy by his nature, human touch, dedication, and motivation to young researchers like me.

Over past one decade, I have been fortunate to work closely with Dr Bhag Mal for various international and national programs organized by Asia-Pacific Association of Agricultural Research Institutions (APAARI) and the Trust for Advancement of Agricultural Sciences (TAAS) in association with ICAR, CGIAR, Governments, private sector, farmers, and other organizations.

With him, it has always been a great learning experience all across. For me, he has been a great mentor for both professional and personal front.

Though he has turned 80 but still works like a 30-year young scientist which is an inspiration of thousands of youths. My wife Bindu Choudhary joins me in praying to Almighty God for his long, happy and healthy life.



Bhagmal@80

Eightieth Birthday Celebration of Dr Bhag Mal

ML Madan

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Bhag Mal: My Personal Reflection

Grassland and fodder research has traditionally been associated with a sustainable livestock production in the country. It is in this context that I have had my first interaction with Dr Bhag Mal.

It gives me great pleasure to be writing today about Dr Bhag Mal whom I have known now for the past several decades. The research institute at Jhansi used to come under the domain of Animal Sciences at the Indian Council of Agriculture Research headquarters in New Delhi. There were several occasions when the fodder situation in the country particularly with respect to our drylands would be discussed across the table. It was always found that Dr Bhag Mal was not only aware of the situation on ground but had a grasp of the problems and understood challenges which the livestock population in the country faced in terms of feed and fodder availability. Ever since those initial meetings I could understand his sincerity in approach, the dedication to the subject and a clear vision of what needs to be done very much enshrined in Dr Bhag Mal. As a plant breeder, he immensely contributed towards agricultural research and development and besides developing over a dozen varieties of forage crops and identifying underutilised crops for fodder, he successfully managed and coordinated several training programs and international projects. As a researcher, he has been prolific in publications including several strategy papers and book chapters.

Ensuring availability of adequate forages, both in terms of quantity and quality, remains to be the primary concern of Dr Bhag Mal for increasing the productivity of livestock economically. At the same time, he addressed himself to the need of the country for enhancing the availability of green forages either by increasing the area under cultivation or by better utilisation of the already available forage resources. Over the years, he developed an excellent grasp of fodder situation in the country and it was his intimate understanding of the problem that we subsequently under the TAAS could develop a detailed document on land use planning in the country.

Dr Bhag Mal has taken up several National and International leadership roles and worked as ADG (Food & Fodder crops) and National Coordinator at ICAR New Delhi. As its Trustee and Secretary of Trust for Advancement of Agricultural Science (TAAS) New Delhi, we have often interacted on various technical issues concerning national and international perspectives of Indian agriculture. He has also provided leadership as President to several scientific societies. Through my association with TAAS in recent years, I have always found Dr Bhag Mal as a very sincere, dedicated, well-informed and hard-working gentleman and would always crave to have his association for the support he provides and for the qualities of his head and heart. I wish all health and prosperity for him to carry on with the excellent mission he has at hand.



MP Pandey

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Dr Bhag Mal: A Humble and Disciplined Friend

It has been a great pleasure and privilege for me to extend felicitations to Dr Bhag Mal that the "Trust for Advancement of Agricultural Science (TAAS)" is bringing out a publication entitled "Bhagmal@80- TAAS celebrates 80th birthday of Dr Bhag Mal" on this occasion.

Dr Bhag Mal, currently associated as Secretary, TAAS, is well renowned scientist with specialisation in genetics, plant breeding and research management and coordination. Soon after completing his PhD (1985), he served several institutions in various capacities notably Head, Division of Crop Improvement at the ICAR-IGFRI (1986-87); ADG (Seeds) in the ICAR, New Delhi; and National Coordinator, AICRP on Potential Crops and ICAR-NBPGR, New Delhi (1987-95); Director, IGFRI (1996-98); South Asia Coordinator Biodiversity International Sub-Regional Office for South Asia, New Delhi (1998-2007) and Global Focus Person for Tropical Fruits, Biodiversity International (IPGRI) 2000-06.

I have known Dr Bhag Mal for more than three decades, but came in close association of working together only recently when Dr Bhag Mal was nominated as one of the six member



Dr Bhag Mal along with Dr MP Pandey with QRT Team at ICAR-NBPGR Regional Station, Jodhpur



Bhagmal@80

Eightieth Birthday Celebration of Dr Bhag Mal



Field visit of QRT Team

experts (PGR) group for the Quinquennial Review Team (QRT) constituted by the Secretary, DARE and DG, ICAR, for one of its major Research Institutes (ICAR-NBPGR) and All India Coordinated Network Project on Potential Crops (AIRNPC) with 14 SAU centres, six cooperating centres of ICAR- NBPGR Regional Stations covering research activities on 17 plant species. Since I was nominated Chairman of both these QRTs, we had ample opportunity to meet and travel together to several Regional Centres/Stations across country, hold discussion meetings, interacting with scientists at centres, visiting field experiments and labs and reviewing research reports of past 5 years (2013-18) and finalising research activities in holistic manner for next 5 years.

I hold Dr Bhag Mal in very high esteem. He makes a good team member because of highly co-operative friendly attitude with each member helping in finalisation of both the reports. His vast experience and knowledge of PGR and AICRPs helped contribute some very constructive suggestions that have been incorporated in final report submitted to ICAR.

I wish to commemorate Dr Bhag Mal's long-standing contribution to science & technology, international co-operation, and his efforts to heralding a sustainable paradigm. Along with many admirers, I too wish him good health and a great sense of fulfilment in his endeavours in the years ahead.



Dr MP Pandey greeting Dr Bhag Mal with shawl

MP Yadav

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An Outstanding Researcher and Science Manager

As a plant breeder, Dr Bhag Mal has immensely contributed for agricultural research and development. He is credited for developing six varieties of forage crops and 10 varieties of underutilized crops. He successfully managed and coordinated several training programs and international projects including Indo-UK project on Forage Crops, Indo-US Project on Plant Genetic Resources, ADB funded project on Tropical Fruits and IFAD funded project on Neglected and Underutilized Species), and has more than 150 publications including research papers, strategy papers, and books. Dr Bhag Mal has served as President, Indian Society of Plant Genetic Resources, NBPGR, New Delhi; Vice President Society of Genetics and Plant Breeding, IARI, New Delhi. He is the recipient of several awards and honours for his excellent professional services. He has the distinction to be the recipient of Chancellor's Medal for being one of the two best students of Agra University, Agra in BSc (Ag.) in the year 1962.

Dr Bhag Mal is currently Trustee and Secretary, Trust for Advancement of Agricultural Sciences (TAAS), New Delhi. He has held several important positions, namely, South Asia Coordinator, Bioversity International, Rome; Director, ICAR-IGFRI, Jhansi; ADG (Seeds) and ADG (Food and Fodder Crops), ICAR, New Delhi; Interim Executive Secretary and Senior Consultant, APAARI, Bangkok; and National Project Coordinator, All India Coordinated Research Project on Underutilized Crops, ICAR-NBPGR, New Delhi.

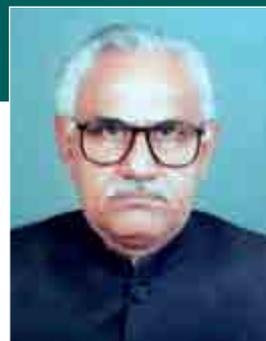
It is gratifying to know that the TAAS is bringing a publication on Dr Bhag Mal on the eve of his 80th Birthday. My first interaction with Dr Bhag Mal was around 2011-12 when I used to come to the TAAS office at IARI, Pusa Campus in Delhi to meet Dr RS Paroda in connection with the work of Haryana Farmers' Commission as Consultant in Animal Sciences and Fisheries. Dr Paroda was the Chairman of this commission. During these visits, I found the opportunity to meet and interact with Dr Bhag Mal in his chamber. I found him very gentle, simple, polite, affectionate, helping, hard-working, knowledgeable and intelligent person. During the Covid-19 pandemic, he showed internal strength and exemplary courage to come out from the disease safely along with family members on the strength of firm determination and faith in modern science and destiny.

On this occasion I wish Dr Bhag Mal a very healthy, happy and fruitful long life so as to serve the farmers and society at large.



MS Yadav

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A Forage Scientist of the Core

As all of us know that we are celebrating 80th birthday of our beloved Dr Bhag Mal. On this occasion, I want to share some of my memories with my dearest friend Dr Bhag Mal.

I have known Dr Bhag Mal since our student life and we both started our career simultaneously. Dr Bhag Mal is academically very sound and a Gold Medalist in our batch in Agra University, Agra. He helped me a lot in my MSc (Agri. Botany) thesis writing..

We both worked together at Jodhpur Station of Plant Introduction Division of ICAR-IARI (now ICAR-NBPGR), where he was Senior Research Assistant and I was Research Assistant. After two years, he left Jodhpur and joined as Assistant Plant Improvement Officer at the ICAR-IGFRI, Jhansi and subsequently also promoted to the post of Senior Research Assistant at IGFRI, Jhansi. We worked together for long time at Jhansi from 1969 to 1980 as Scientist S1, S2, S3 and he was my senior all through. We stayed at the IGFRI residential campus and every day after our office hours, we four close friends Dr Jai Singh, Dr Amar Singh, Dr Bhag Mal and myself used to spend time together up to late evenings and discussing about our research work and also sharing general family well-beings. We used to attend each other's family functions and this is continued even now, though we are now at distant locations.

We both have emotional and familiar attachments together from many years. I remember an incident that shows his complete dedication towards his work. Once we were doing planting of grasses in the field, suddenly it started raining. I told him to complete the planting next morning but he replied that this is the right time to finish the planting and we both finished our work while it was still raining. I am very much blessed to have such a nice, polite and gentle friend in my life who always held my hands in tough times. He is a man of very cool and calm mind and he has good command in research work as a scientist. He is an excellent advisor and inspires everyone. I feel myself very fortunate person as Dr Bhag Mal is a precious and priceless gift of my life.

I pray God for his long, healthy, peaceful and happy life for many more years. May God bless him always.



M Ehsan Dullu

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Dr Bhag Mal: A Man of Team Efforts

I have known Dr Bhag Mal since 1999 when I first joined the International Plant Genetic Resources Institute (now Bioversity International). Dr Bhag Mal has been a key player in supporting the conservation and use of plant genetic resources in India and beyond in South Asia and globally.

In the capacity of South Asia Coordinator, he has been especially active in supporting national programs in six countries such as Bangladesh, Bhutan, India, Nepal, Sri Lanka and Maldives. He also very successfully and ably piloted the prestigious Asian Development Bank (ADB) funded Project on Tropical Fruits in 10 Asian countries, namely, Nepal, Bhutan, Bangladesh, Sri Lanka, Malaysia, Indonesia, China, Vietnam, Philippines and Thailand for six years.

He had also been actively involved in the IFAD funded Project on Neglected and Underutilized Species (NUS) and had been intensively engaged in promoting the conservation and use of NUS in the Asia region. I was impressed with his simple and hard-working nature with a good team spirit. I found him very well-behaved, punctual, humble, soft-spoken, strongly committed and dedicated with good coordination and leadership qualities which led to successful completion of the projects and other assignments given to him.

I take this opportunity to congratulate him on his 80th birthday and wish him all happiness, peace, good health and long life so that he continues serving the Society and Science and the PGR community globally.



Bhagmal@80

Eightieth Birthday Celebration of Dr Bhag Mal

Mahendra Singh

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My Memorable Interaction and Association with Dr Bhag Mal

It gives me immense pleasure to know that the Trust for Advancement of Agricultural Sciences (TAAS) is going to commemorate Dr Bhag Mal's 80th Birthday by bringing out a publication entitled "Bhagmal@80-TAAS Celebrates 80th Birthday of Dr Bhag Mal".

It has even more significance because this is being arranged under the able direction of TAAS Chairman, *Padma Bhushan* Dr RS Paroda Jee (Former Secretary, DARE & DG, ICAR).

I have had an association with Dr Bhag Mal for more than 5 decades. As a human being, he is very humble and simple, easily approachable and ever ready to help others.

Born in a farmer's family, Dr Bhag Mal has successfully travelled a long journey to make a great contribution to Indian Agriculture as an eminent scientist and an able administrator at various positions in the ICAR and elsewhere.

He is the recipient of prestigious award, Dr Harbhajan Singh Award. He is a Fellow of a number of scientific societies. He is in reality a genius person.

I wish him a long pleasant healthy life.



Masood Ali

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Dr Bhag Mal: A Memoir

I met Dr Bhag Mal in 1976 when I joined ICAR-Indian Grassland and Fodder Research Institute, Jhansi in 1976. We worked together till 1982, shared our views and thoughts on various scientific matters as well as social values and responsibilities. I have been in constant touch with him till date and interacting in different scientific meetings. I also worked with him in QRT meeting of All India Coordinated Network Project on Under-utilized Crops.

I found him a very generous, humble, friendly and an innovative scientist with high dignity and moral values.

I wish Dr Bhag Mal a very peaceful, healthy and long life.



Menhi Lal

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Dr Bhag Mal represents 'All in One'

My heartiest congratulations to Dr Bhag Mal on his 80th Birthday on 1st April 2022. It is my great pleasure to express that my association with Dr Bhag Mal, a renowned Agricultural Scientist goes back to 1st April 1977, coinciding with his 35th Birthday when I joined ICAR-Indian Grassland and Fodder Research Institute (IGFRI), Jhansi as Senior Scientist where Dr Bhag Mal was already holding Senior position. I found Dr Bhag Mal, a very competent plant breeder, able teacher and congenial supervisor. During our long stay at the IGFRI, Jhansi as Heads of respective Divisions, our working together further intensified. With Dr Bhag Mal as Chairman of several managerial, technical and administrative committees and I as a Member therein, I observed 3 Vs characteristics in Dr Bhag Mal i.e., V1- He has vision, V2- He is vibrant, and V3- He is visible.

With an excellent academic record throughout, I always found Dr Bhag Mal a very hard-working scientist with a fine memory and a good capacity to grasp and reproduce knowledge quickly. He is an energetic, enthusiastic and honest researcher. All these led Dr Bhag Mal to occupy prestigious positions in different ICAR Institutes and finally the top position of Director, ICAR-IGFRI Jhansi. During his tenure as Director, IGFRI attained new heights in research, training and outreach programs. Recognizing his outstanding achievements and significant contributions during service career in the ICAR, he has been picked up as South Asia Coordinator of Bioversity International (then International Plant Genetic Resource Institute (IPGRI) at the South Asia Office, New Delhi where he served for nine years. Later after retirement, he served there as Hon. Research Fellow for about four years. In these years, Dr Bhag Mal had been coordinating, monitoring, documenting, reporting and presenting effectively at national and global fora the outcome of several gigantic projects which were being implemented under his able leadership.

On the more personal side, I must say that it has indeed been a great pleasure to be associated with Dr Bhag Mal, both at work and socially. His has a pleasant personality; his courtesy and his ready smile are all very much appreciated. We hear about One in One, Two in One and Three in One but Dr Bhag Mal represents 'All in One'.

I sincerely wish Dr Bhag Mal a long, healthy, wealthy and happy life with family.



Mohan C Saxena

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Dr Bhag Mal, A Much-valued Colleague and Great Friend

It is a matter of great delight for me to join in the felicitation of Dr Bhag Mal at the occasion of his 80th birthday. He has been a much-valued colleague and a great friend for past several years. Although he graduated in the field of agriculture from the same institution as I, we did not have personal acquaintance till he started serving the Indian Council of Agricultural Research (ICAR) in the 1980s and I was working at the International Center for Agricultural Research in the Dry Areas (ICARDA), where I started expanding its collaboration with research partners in India.

His contributions in the field of research on genetic resources and improvement of forage crops, and underutilized legumes and other neglected crops drew me closer to him, as this work had great relevance to some of the research that was being done at the ICARDA, in the West Asia, North Africa and the Central Asia and the Caucasus (CWANA) region and for which I had the responsibility to provide administrative leadership.

The excellence of his research and administrative capabilities, at the the ICAR-National Bureau of Plant Genetic Resources (NBPGR), New Delhi, and the ICAR-Indian Grassland and Fodder Research Institute (IGFRI), Jhansi led him to step into international agricultural research system under the auspices of Consultative Group on International Agricultural Research (CGIAR). Thus, he was invited to lead the South Asia Program of the Bioversity International (formerly, International Plant Genetic Resources Institute, IPGRI), as its Coordinator in the Sub-regional Office for South Asia, New Delhi. This he did with great competence and, in addition, he played the crucial role as the Global Focal Person for Tropical Fruits, of this CGIAR Center. He also provided great technical support to Asia-Pacific Association of Agricultural Research Institutions (APAARI), as a Senior Consultant, for several years and contributed to global dissemination of information through publication of outcome of scientific meetings and consultations organized by the APAARI in different member countries in the region.

I have seen, with great admiration, the services he has rendered to the Trust for Advancement of Agricultural Sciences (TAAS), first as a senior consultant and now as its Secretary. It is also his work in the TAAS that has provided me the opportunity to gain better knowledge of his commitment and dedication to the promotion of agricultural sciences. In spite of the disruptions created by the COVID 19 pandemic in the period of last three years, the TAAS has



continued its various scientific deliberations and has been able to publish and distribute a series of information-rich publications for the benefit of scientists and policy makers on topics of national, regional and global importance. Much of the credit should go to Dr Bhag Mal for making this possible.

The outstanding capability of Dr Bhag Mal as a planner and organizer of scientific deliberations became evident to me when we had planning sessions at the TAAS, in 2018, for the 13th International Conference on Dryland Development (ICDD), to be conducted in Feb 2019, at the Central Arid Zone Research Institute (CAZRI), Jodhpur, jointly by the International Dryland Development Commission (IDDC), Indian Council of Agricultural Research (ICAR) and TAAS.

As a life member of the TAAS, I feel much indebted to Dr Bhag Mal for his extraordinary commitment to the promotion of the objectives of the TAAS. May the Almighty grant him many more years of good health and bless him with strength to continue carrying out successfully his work in the advancement of agricultural sciences in the coming years.



Mruthyunjaya

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Dr Bhag Mal-Great Scientist, Able Administrator, Trusted Colleague, Friend, and Exceptional Human Being

I know Dr Bhag Mal for more than 25 years since I have joined ICAR Hqrs in 1994 as ADG (ESM/Policy/PIM). He is the most accomplished fellow with distinguished service in various capacities as ADG (Seeds; Food and Fodder Crops), Director of an important ICAR institute (ICAR-IGFRI), National Coordinator (AICRP), managed/coordinated several national, international projects and training programs, published extensively in high impact journals, served as Interim Executive Secretary, APAARI, served as Member/Chair of several national/international committees/meetings, Senior consultant APAARI, South Asia Coordinator (Biodiversity International), and presently serving as Trustee and Secretary, TAAS, New Delhi.

Though I had the pleasure and privilege to work/in touch with him for all these years to take his suggestions/advise/comments on several policy related advisories, but I would like to mention a few specifically where his guidance, suggestions, support was extraordinary and helped me in proper planning and producing quality output much to the appreciation of senior policy makers/executives nationally and globally.

During 1994, he was a part of a Committee of ADGs constituted by ICAR under the leadership of Dr Paroda, Secretary DARE and DG, ICAR which I coordinated as ADG (Policy) to draft a Vision 2020 for ICAR like ongoing efforts in drafting such vision documents for all the ICAR institutions in ICAR. The inputs DrBhag Mal gave proactively to draft the document I still remember as landmark ideas/suggestions to shape it well. This I say after getting appreciation on the shared draft from colleagues across ICAR institutions in regional meetings.

In 2011, IFPRI partnered with APAARI to conduct series of policy dialogues on the prioritization of demand driven agricultural research for development in South Asia. Dialogues were conducted in Bangladesh, India and Nepal in mid- 2012 and the country reports were prepared. The guidance support and suggestions given by Dr Paroda, Dr Bhag Mal who were engaged in the entire process including finalizing the India Report were marvellous and will be ever remembered. The insights from Dr PK Joshi, Dr David Spielman and Dr Mark Rosegrant of IFPRI were also very useful.

APAARI during 2015 decided to draft Vision 2030 following a well-structured process of review, e-consultation and brain-storming developed a corporate document APAARI Vision 2030 to



provide a new key guide for APAARI, its secretariat and partners to strengthen agri-food research and innovation systems for SAD in Asia and the Pacific. I was hired as a Lead Resource Person with the support of Dr PK Joshi, IFPRI New Delhi. The guidance, support, coordination extended by Dr RD Ghodake, Executive Secretary, Dr RS Paroda, Chairman TAAS, Dr Bhag Mal, Sr Consultant, APAARI, Dr PK Joshi, IFPRI New Delhi, in completion of the task was exemplary and I will never, ever forget.

APAARI organized a High-Level Policy Dialogue on Investment in Agricultural Research for Sustainable Development in Asia and the Pacific to promote Agricultural Research and innovation for sustainable development through appropriate policies, strategies and actions. Sixty-three Senior officials from over 20 countries in the Asia-Pacific region participated in the dialogue during 8-9 December in Bangkok, Thailand in 2015. In the dialogue, I presented a paper on "Innovative Funding Mechanisms of Public Sector -The Case of NAIP, of ICAR, India". The role played by Dr Bhag Mal in planning, organizing, coordinating and concluding the Dialogue was well appreciated and he was responsible for its great success.

These are only the samples of specific events among innumerable others in his long-distinguished service period where I actively associated and witnessed his exceptional planning skills, meticulous organizing and coordinating ability always aiming at the highest accountability for outstanding outcome from anything where he spends time and efforts. Besides his enviable skills, his personal qualities, pleasing manners are highly appealing/infectious and will impress everyone like a magnet.

Overall, I must say that I am completely bowled by his impeccable personality, humility. I am a fan of him and his professional abilities and personal qualities. To me he is a "KARMAYOGI" and he strongly believes in "KAYAKAVE KAILASA" (Work is worship).

I wish him and his family many more years of healthy, happy and most productive life.
Shatamanambhavati!



Narendra Singh Rathore

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A Born Scientist with Great Vision

I congratulate Dr Bhag Mal, Secretary, Trust for Advancement of Agricultural Sciences (TAAS) and Former Director, ICAR-Indian Grassland and Fodder Research Institute (IGFRI), Jhansi on joining the club of octogenarians. Though I knew Dr Bhag Mal for a pretty long time, however, I came in his close contact during my stay at the ICAR as DDG (Agricultural Engineering and Agricultural Education). During this memorable period, I had copious occasions of meeting him.

I was highly impressed with his exceptional studious and managerial qualities. He has worked with strenuousness alongside Dr RS Paroda, Chairman, TAAS and Former Secretary (DARE) & Director-General (ICAR), Govt. of India in implementing strategies of the trust as a 'Think Tank' to bolster up agricultural research and innovation for development.

He has always stood firmly behind Dr Paroda in organizing workshops, conferences, brainstorming sessions, policy dialogues, seminars and special lectures on emerging issues and new developments in agricultural sciences. Development of a number of classy publications by the TAAS would not have been possible without critical input of Dr Bhag Mal. The overseas partnerships developed by the TAAS over the years, is the outcome of his shrewd and nimble support to the Chairman.

On attaining the age of eighty, I wish that Dr Bhag Mal enjoys sound health for number of years to come so we continue to get the benefit of his vast experience and that he serves the fraternity for a long time.



Bhagmal@80

Eightieth Birthday Celebration of Dr Bhag Mal

OPS Verma

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My Impressions about Dr Bhag Mal

I have known Dr Bhag Mal ji from the year 1976 when he joined at the ICAR-Indian Grassland and Fodder Research Institute (IGFRI), Jhansi as Senior Plant Breeder (Grasses) and since then I was in close contact and associated with him in various activities in the Division of Plant Improvement. I was also working as a scientist in the Plant Physiology Section of Plant Improvement Division and was associated in various crop improvement and production research programs. During the period, I got the opportunity to learn from him several important aspects of research concerning fodder crops and grasses which enhanced my knowledge significantly. He was always very liberal, generous and helpful in providing all necessary inputs for conducting experiments and writing the results. His behaviour with the all his senior and junior colleagues was very friendly and supportive. He was always surrounded by colleagues seeking advice on various issues which he used to provide them with pleasure and smile. He was such a rare personality who was loved by one and all in the Institute.

He left ICAR-IGFRI, Jhansi in 1987 and joined as the Project Coordinator of AICRP (Underutilized Plants) at the ICAR-NBPGR, New Delhi. His hard work and dedication was soon recognized and he was given the responsibility of ADG (Seeds) and ADG (Food & Fodder Crops) and also as the Head of Indo-US Project on Plant Genetic Resources, ICAR-NBPGR, New Delhi. Later he joined as Director, ICAR-IGFRI, Jhansi in January 1996 and directed the institute research programs and other activities to the highest level of excellence, where all the staff members were highly satisfied and happy with the achievements in their respective areas. He was able to create a good scientific environment where all researchers were deeply engaged in research, writing research papers, attending conferences/workshops/trainings in India and abroad. He was able to send a large number of scientists abroad for higher training in UK, Netherlands and Australia under the collaborative projects with these countries and also generously supported the participation of many scientists in conferences abroad. This demonstrated his kindness, generosity, and love and affection for the staff.

During his tenure as Director, the ICAR Regional Sports Meet was also organized at IGFRI under his leadership and the event was highly successful and appreciated by all concerned. The Secretary, ICAR was the Chief Guest in the Opening Ceremony of the Sports Meet and Financial Adviser, DARE was the Chief Guest in the Closing Ceremony which was a rare example which demonstrated extra ordinary managerial skill of Dr Bhag Mal. I am highly indebted to him for his constant help in drafting of research papers and I had been fortunate to publish papers in joint authorship with him. He used to encourage and motivate all the scientists to write and publish papers in journals with high impact factor.

I wish him sound health, peace and prosperity in life.



OP Yadav

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Dr Bhag Mal: An Excellent Human Being

It's a great pleasure to record my close association with Dr Bhag Mal, a renowned scientist, an accomplished plant breeder and an able administrator with a human touch.

I had a great appreciation for Dr Bhag Mal for his prodigious contribution in the development and deployment of crop cultivars that empowered farming community to harvest more and help them in their improved livelihood.

Having a unique amalgamation, in his persona, of humility and supporting nature with an enormous experience and involvement in agricultural research and development at both national and international levels, he has been a source of inspiration for new generation of researchers and academicians.

On the occasion of celebration of his 80th birthday, we extend our best wishes, while fully appreciating his supportive role to me and my several present and past colleagues at the ICAR-Central Arid Zone Research Institute, Jodhpur.

Long live Dr Bhag Mal!



Dr Bhag Mal chatting with Dr OP Yadav and others



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Eightieth Birthday Celebration of Dr Bhag Mal

PL Gautam

Former Chairperson, PPV&FRA

Former Chairperson, NBA

Former Vice Chancellor, GBPUA&T, Pantnagar (Uttarakhand)

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A Word about My Friend Dr Bhag Mal

I am very happy to write about Dr Bhag Mal, who is intimately known to me since 1980s. He has left his big impact in places and positions wherever he served. He gave big strength to AICRP on Underutilized Plants. His work in Plant Genetic Resources Management is widely known. He has done remarkable work at ICAR-IGFRI, Jhansi and later at Bioversity International, South Asia Office in New Delhi.

He has made remarkable contributions to the growth of Indian Society of Plant Genetic Resources (ISPGR) and the Trust for Advancement of Agricultural Sciences (TAAS), New Delhi.

While congratulating him for completing the journey of 80 years, I wish him a long and happy life.



PN Mathur

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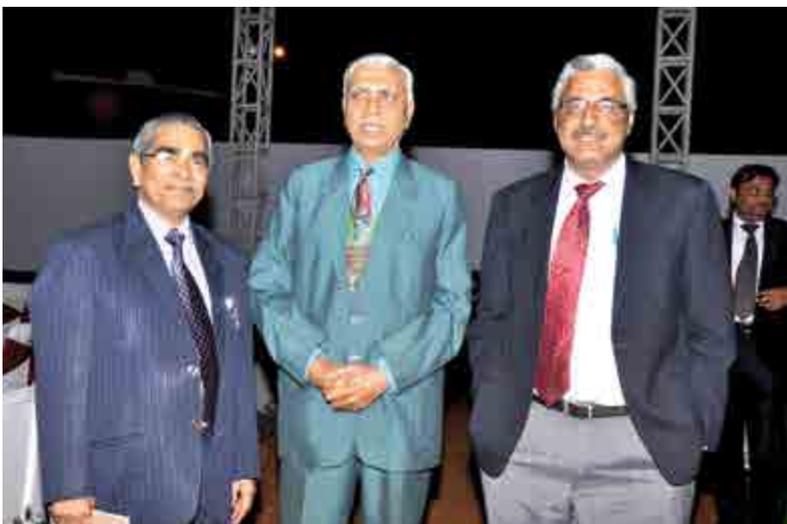


Dr Bhag Mal: A Man of Vision, Mission, Action, Passion and Compassion

First of all, I congratulate my friend Dr Bhag Mal on his attaining eighty years of age. I would like to mention that much after my superannuation from ICAR-IARI, New Delhi, I met him for the first time in his office when he was Coordinator, IPGRI (now Bioversity International). At the very first meeting, I thought why I couldn't meet him earlier. He is such a good person I never knew. It was very nice and I was delighted to talk with him. Then I met him in the office of the Trust for Advancement of Agricultural Sciences (TAAS). We worked closely for about six months while organizing 'Global Conference on Women in Agriculture', where I was given the responsibility of coordinating the conference.

I am happy that I could be able to carry out this responsibility to the full satisfaction of the organizers particularly Dr RS Paroda with the help of Dr Bhag Mal. The messages received from any quarters/stakeholders, Dr Bhag Mal analysed it first, and then he guided and forwarded the same to me. This shows his meticulous and efficiently working for any job assigned to him.

Today also, I derive extreme pleasure whenever I meet and relish tea with him. I always get extra energy and happiness after meeting him. I feel indebted getting such a friend who is very rare around all of us. My congratulations will remain with him for today and days/years to come.



Dr Bhag Mal with Dr PN Mathur and Dr Suresh Pal during Global Conference on Women in Agriculture



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Eightieth Birthday Celebration of Dr Bhag Mal

PS Pathak

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Dr Bhag Mal: Effectiveness for Leadership

I am very pleased to know that my friend Dr Bhag Mal, Former ADG, ICAR and Director, ICAR-Indian Grassland and Fodder Research Institute (IGFRI), Jhansi has completed 80 years of very dynamic and productive life in the agricultural research and management services of the country. We both joined as Scientist at ICAR-IGFRI, Jhansi in 1969 and worked in many areas of forage and grassland research and management and shared many platforms of management and research.

Dr Bhag Mal has worked, guided monitored and coordinated research in the areas of plant breeding and related disciplines at national and International levels and provided guidance and leadership at every level.

His ever smiling personality and friendly nature are great assets. He is very humble, soft spoken, assertive, supportive and sincere in nature. I wish him a very happy, healthy, and peaceful life.

May God bless him with a long life.



Panjab Singh

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My Association with Dr Bhag Mal

I have known Dr Bhag Mal for nearly four decades now. Also, I had a chance to work together at the ICAR-Indian Grassland and Fodder Research Institute (IGFRI), Jhansi where I joined as its Director in 1986 and he was working there as a Principal Scientist in the Division of Crop Improvement. Perhaps, this was the worst period of IGFRI when law and order had collapsed and IGFRI was almost at the verge of closure. The institute had gone into an open grazing ground for neighbouring villagers and scientists were not able to protect their experiments in fields and plant breeders were not able to protect their precious germplasm.

I recall Dr Bhag Mal took me to his residence one day and showed me how he was maintaining his plant materials in his backyard and narrated the story of forced grazing by villagers and day to day fights on one or the other pretext. The entire working was destabilized and there was a frightening scenario in the institute. Dr Bhag Mal was one among the very few in the institute who stood for the right cause and gave full support to the system in fighting the situation and restoration of the normalcy in the institute after a couple of months. Later, he became the Head of Crop Improvement Division and guided the activities concerning forage crop breeding and provided good support in technical matters being in Director's Technical Cell.

On the science front, Dr Bhag Mal was rated as one of the top forage breeders who made a notable contribution in growth and development of forages in the country. He very ably guided the destiny of IGFRI as its Director and the institute attained a newer height during his leadership. His ability to take fellow scientists together as team and creating work environment and space for everyone is unique.

As a boss and also as a subordinate Dr Bhag Mal is equally comfortable with co-workers which let him work smoothly in different capacities across institutions in India and abroad and to contribute in promotion of forage science, in general and plant genetic resources (PGR) in particular.

With God gifted health Dr Bhag Mal is still active as ever and busy in promoting science and science policies through his association with TAAS as its Trustee and Secretary.

I wish Dr Bhag Mal a healthy and productive life ahead.



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Eightieth Birthday Celebration of Dr Bhag Mal

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Dr Bhag Mal: An Icon of Indian and International Agriculture

Dr Bhag Mal, Trustee and Secretary at TAAS, New Delhi a renowned forage breeder, served ICAR for almost three decades in various capacities. Dr Bhag Mal is an exemplary researcher, able administrator and most importantly an affectionate guide. His contribution in agricultural research has been instrumental for the upliftment of the farmers of the country. Because of setting high standards in research, Dr Bhag Mal has become a role model for the young scientists in the field of forage breeding. I personally admire Dr Bhag Mal for his untiring efforts in making the ICAR-IGFRI significantly visible globally, through his leadership especially being its Director.

His contribution has always provided a thrust to the organizations, he served. He played a visionary role for the promotion and conservation of biodiversity as South Asia Coordinator, Bioversity International (earlier known as IPGRI). During my stay at Delhi from 2017-2019, I have seen and understood Dr Bhag Mal from the very close door as an exceptionally humble, polite and a determined person with full of gratitude and compassion.

I wish Dr Bhag Mal a prosperous and healthy long life and many more achievements in his future endeavors.



RB Singh

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Happy Birthday Dr Bhag Mal

I am very happy that the TAAS is celebrating 80th Birthday of Dr Bhag Mal, and has given me also an opportunity to greet him in person and wish him Happy Birthday.

It is gratifying to recall his long-standing veritable outstanding research and management contributions, which must inspire our younger colleagues.

Possessing a brilliant academic record, his major research contributions include development of several widely adopted new varieties of forage and underutilized crops. He has helped conserve, characterise and utilize germplasm of several of these crops. Dr Bhag Mal has been helpful also in rebuilding the ICAR-NBPGR under the guidance of Dr RS Paroda.

As Assistant Director General at the ICAR, Director of ICAR-IGFRI, Jhansi, and South Asia Coordinator of Bioversity International, he has brought effective institutional reforms and nurtured several international collaborations, including APAARI.

His excellent writing and editorial skills have been duly harnessed by several professional societies, presently so lucidly by the TAAS. Thanks to Dr Paroda for creating right opportunities for our talented scientists.

Dr Bhag Mal has been decorated with several honours and recognitions and his talented services have been utilised by national and international systems. He has been actively involved in organizing several workshops/conferences/consultations in collaboration with national and international organizations.

I offer my heartiest congratulations to Dr Bhag Mal on his auspicious 80th Birthday. Even now, he continues to make remarkable contributions. I wish him a very healthy, happy and academically productive life in years ahead.



Bhagmal@80

Eightieth Birthday Celebration of Dr Bhag Mal

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As I Know Dr Bhag Mal

My first meeting with Dr Bhag Mal was a great pleasure when, in 2018, I started working as a Consultant with the Trust for Advancement of Agricultural Sciences (TAAS), New Delhi. I, earlier, never had a chance to meet Dr Bhag Mal but knew that he as an eminent scientist, has worked as Assistant Director General (Food & Fodder Crops), ICAR; Director, ICAR-Indian Grassland and Fodder Research Institute, Jhansi, and South Asia Coordinator, Bioversity International (formerly, International Plant Genetic Resources Institute-IPGRI), Sub-regional Office for South Asia, New Delhi.

Working with him has been a unique experience because of his simplicity, knowledge and thoughts towards the scientific, social and personal matters; always supporting, sharing and encouraging attitude; energy and commitment to finish work in time and a personal touch in every meeting giving a feel to meet him again soon.

Advancing age has not yet deterred him from work. I wish him a long happy, healthy and prosperous life enabling us to work together for many more years to come.

My best regards to Dr Bhag Mal ji.



RS Rathi

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Dr Bhag Mal: A Role Model for Me

It is my immense pleasure to write for Dr Bhag Mal Sahib, a renowned and distinguished scientist in the PGR science. I started my initial career with Dr Bhag Mal during 1989, when he was Project Coordinator of Underutilized and Underexploited Crops in the ICAR-NBPGR, New Delhi.

He is a wonderful mentor. He groomed me to acquire scientific and administrative professional skills. I had interesting and memorable experience with him. He always encouraged me and other colleagues who worked with him. His leadership helped me grow my potential so much, otherwise I would not be where I am today. He has a smiling face, always looks very cool and caring to people in and around him. I salute him for showing me how to stand and get my ground and enjoy the kind of career I could get. Sir, I am proud of you. I count myself lucky for having had your guidance and mentorship.

You have been an exemplary and visionary mentor, a great leader who has dedicated his life to the service of humanity and for the organization. I appreciate and treasure everything you have taught me. Not only are you fantastic at your job, but you have also proven yourself to be a loving and caring person, both in the office and out in the society.

I always be grateful to him for his support and kindness and guiding me on right path. It would be impossible to count the number of occasions, he has helped me in my career.

He is a role model for me in my research accomplishment as well. How can I express my gratefulness



Dr Bhag Mal with NBPGR Colleagues



Bhagmal@80

Eightieth Birthday Celebration of Dr Bhag Mal



Dr Bhag Mal, Director, ICAR-IGFRI with ICAR-NBPGR sports contingent

for his mentorship, I don't know? I am truly blessed to have him as a guide in my life. I learnt something new from him every day. I thank him profusely for providing me with such a strong foundation in the system/organization. He has been an inspiration to young and budding scientists. His encouragement and advice led me to places I never thought I would go. I have learned many things from him- the value of patience and tolerance.

Lastly, I salute him for his outstanding leadership qualities, words of encouragement and support to all my young fellow colleagues. I would express my greetings to him with family for colourful and healthy life.

Raj Kumar Tyagi

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My Impressions about Dr Bhag Mal

Dr Bhag Mal and I have been together in ICAR-IGFRI, Jhansi for many years. In the first instance, he joined as a Senior Scientist in the year 1976. He was very senior to me, but I found him very friendly with all the staff members. Every one of us had a great respect for him due to his sweet nature and helping attitude. Later, he maintained family relations with most of his colleagues and whenever needed he used to take care of their personal problems also. He always remained busy in research activities and provided full cooperation and support to other scientists in their research projects.

In February 1987, he left ICAR-IGFRI to join as a National Coordinator of AICRP on Underutilized Crops at the ICAR-NBPGR, New Delhi. Everybody in our institute felt his absence and kept remembering him. To our good luck, he returned back as a Director, ICAR-IGFRI in January 1996. We found no change in him as regards the friendly behaviour with each of us. As a Director, he achieved a very good reputation due to his honesty, good administration, unbiased decisions and strictness wherever required by taking bold steps.

He had very keen interest in the overall development of the Institute. He accelerated the research activities to a great extent and regularly visited the research farm to monitor the progress and provide his advice and suggestions for improvement.

Dr Bhag Mal is a man with vision and 'Man on Mission' having a charming personality with a magnetic aura. There was an excellent atmosphere for research and social activities in the institute during his tenure as Director. As an administrator also, he created an example of a successful person whose actions speak louder than words. His heroics have led teams to success on numerous occasions. His determination and indomitable courage are undoubtedly admirable.

As a person, he is one who is compassionate and stands by people's side no matter the circumstances. He has always lent a helping hand and his guidance has proved to be a stepping stone to success for uncountable persons. He is a GEM of a person, a legend and a master of his art.

We were again disappointed when he left IGFRI in mid of March, 1998 to join South Asia Coordinator IPGRI (now Bioversity International) at New Delhi. I can say with confidence that whosoever worked with him, always remember him and used to remain in touch with him. We extend our best regards and good wishes to him on this 80th Birthday.



Bhagmal@80

Eightieth Birthday Celebration of Dr Bhag Mal

Rajeev Varshney

International Chair in Agriculture & Food Security,
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Dr Bhag Mal, An Accomplished Researcher and Down to Earth Personality

It is so exciting to note that the Trust for Advancement of Science (TAAS) is publishing this book for celebrating the 80th birthday of Dr Bhag Mal. I feel privileged to know and work with Dr Bhag Mal as my association with TAAS for the past several years and had my latest meeting with him in Sept 2021. While looking back at his research, administrative and agricultural science leadership career, it is evident that Dr Bhag Mal has dedicated his life for the cause of advancing and promoting agricultural science in both India and at international level.

His contributions in development of several varieties, management of big projects, organization of training programs and leadership to various societies are widely known. In his administrative roles starting from ADG (Seeds) to Secretary (TAAS) with many other key positions with international organizations like Bioversity International, and APAARI, he has provided able guidance to advance vision and mission of all those organizations, he remained associated. I feel privileged to know him personally and working with him as TAAS member. He is an accomplished researcher, able administrator and most importantly down-to-earth person. He is always very prompt and provides precise and comprehensive information on any topic as he has got lots of knowledge in agricultural sciences.

My best wishes to Dr Bhag Mal, on his 80th birthday and I wish him good health and all the best for his continuous services to agricultural science!



Dr Rajeev Varshney along with Drs Raj Paroda, Kuldip Singh and Bhag Mal in TAAS Office



Rajendra Prasad Singh

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Dr Bhag Mal: An Extraordinary Achiever

Wish a very happy & healthy life to my esteemed friend Dr Bhag Mal on his 80th birthday which he celebrated on 1st April 2022.

When you look back over 80 yrs of life, your memories are warm and rich.

When you celebrate this day, your heart is filled with joy and love, and when you look forward to the future, your dreams are filled and satisfied.

I feel privileged and happy to say that Dr Bhag Mal has been my class fellow in MSc (Ag Botany) during the year 1962-63 and 1963-64. He was my good friend because of his amiable nature, behaviour, and so many other qualities apart from being a very brilliant student. After having passed out MSc, we could not meet till 1986 when Dr Bhag Mal was Head, Division of Crop Improvement at ICAR-IGFRI, Jhansi and I was Sr Project Manager (NSP)/Associate Professor in CSAUAT, Kanpur (Uttar Pradesh). After this, we have been meeting occasionally when Dr Bhag Mal was National Coordinator, AICRP (Underutilised Crops) at ICAR-NBPGR, New Delhi (1987-95) and also later as Director, IGFRI, Jhansi (1996- March 1998) and I was Professor (Genetics & Plant Breeding) at CSAUAT Kanpur. Our meeting frequency increased when Dr Bhag Mal was South Asia Coordinator, Biodiversity International (1998- March 2007), Hony. Senior Research Fellow, Biodiversity International (April 2007- March 2011), and Sr Consultant, APAARI, Bangkok (2011-2016)- all seated in NAAS Complex, Pusa, New Delhi and I as PI, AICRP (Pearlmillet) and HoD (Genetics & Plant Breeding), CSAUAT Kanpur till retirement in 2002; State Coordinator ATMA, Uttarakhand Govt (2006-2011); Consultant RKVY, DAC&FW, Gol; and Chief Consultant (Agriculture) at TERI, New Delhi (2013-14). In all these years, we are in touch on mobile and on virtual talk.

Dr Bhag Mal has immensely contributed in agricultural R&D. He has developed 6 varieties of forage crops and 10 varieties of underutilised crops. He has to his credit more than 150 publications including research papers, books, book chapters, etc. He has successfully managed and coordinated several international projects and training programs and has chaired/ co-chaired scientific sessions in several national and international conferences. He is recipient of several awards and honours. He has served as President & Vice President of several National Scientific Societies & organisations.

In nutshell, Dr Bhag Mal is an outstanding amalgam of intellect, scientific temper, excellent working and performing ability in the field of agricultural research and development.

I wish and pray for good health and happy life to Dr Bhag Mal.



Bhagmal@80

Eightieth Birthday Celebration of Dr Bhag Mal

Raju Barwale

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My Thoughts about Dr Bhag Mal Jee on the Occasion of his 80th Birthday

I have been fortunate to know Dr Bhag Mal ji over the years, particularly through the Trust for Advancement of Agricultural Sciences (TAAS) since he took the position of Trustee and Secretary.

His dedication and exemplary commitment in his role as Secretary, Dr Bhag Mal ji would make him an ideal role model for today's youngsters to emulate and adopt. Though I do not feel myself competent to write about the scientific, academic and administrative expertise of Dr Bhag Mal Ji, it would not be out of place to state that he is one of the most distinguished and experienced agricultural scientists. His contributions and achievements are many in the field of his research work in plant genetic resources, genetics, and plant breeding including development of six forage crop varieties.

He also had great experience of administration in the capacity of Director, ICAR-IGFRI, Jhansi and has been active in building several institutions and associations. It would not be out of place to state that the TAAS has much to gain from his above expertise and experience.

Eightieth (80th) Birthday is a very significant milestone in one's journey of life. As per our astrological calculations, it is said that such a person would have seen over 1,000 full moons to reach 80th year. On this all-important occasion, I would like to wish Dr Bhag Mal ji and his family many more years of happy and healthy life.

We look forward to his continued guidance and support to Indian agriculture to cope up with the emerging challenges of climate change and sustainability. Selfless contributions from people like him have enabled the TAAS to be able to be of service in the cause of Indian Agriculture.



Trustees participating in TAAS Board Meeting



Rajvir Rathi

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Dr Bhag Mal: An Eminent Agricultural Scientist

Dr Bhag Mal is very humble, kind and highly knowledgeable person. He is a committed scientist who dedicated his career for advancement, conservation and utilization of genetic resources for sustainable agriculture.

I met him for the first time in 2015. I really had a unique experience and was highly impressed with his high level of energy and in-depth subject knowledge. I really admire him for his outstanding and significant contributions towards agriculture science in general and genetic resources in particular.

I wish him all good success and healthy life ahead.



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Eightieth Birthday Celebration of Dr Bhag Mal

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Dr Bhag Mal: An Inspiring Personality

I have interacted with Dr Bhag Mal for many years now.

He is a very methodical and thorough agricultural scientist with great capacity for articulating and documenting policy related matters. His planning of many round tables and stakeholder dialogues is meticulous, capturing all the discussions and bringing out the proceedings in a constructive and concise manner is peerless and his timely actions have helped many committees to complete their tasks in time.

He has very clear thoughts on some of the difficult subjects and never hesitated to express them fearlessly. He is very energetic and enthusiastic about his work. He has been a pillar of strength for the Trust for Advancement of Agricultural Sciences (TAAS), New Delhi.

I convey my best wishes to Dr Bhag Mal on the occasion of his 80th birthday and wish him a long life. May God bless him with long life, peace and good health.

My best wishes to Mrs Bhag Mal and his entire family too on this occasion.

Ramesh Lal Sapra

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Dr Bhag Mal: A Man of Perseverance

I never thought a day will ever come in my life when I will be asked to write a few words about a person whom I have seen all the time carrying fragrance of simplicity with rays of smile, sincerity, utmost commitment to the work and full of actions.

I came in contact with Dr Bhag Mal almost three decades back in the year 1987 when he joined the ICAR-NBPGR as Project Coordinator, All India Coordinated Research Project on Underutilized and Underexploited Crops' and additionally looking after the implementation of Indo-USAID PGR project operations at the NBPGR. I used to interact with him more often in connection of implementing the PGR Database Management project (a sub-project of the Indo-USAID project). It is a coincidence that I used to sit in a computer lab just adjacent to Dr Bhag Mal's chamber. Whenever I had any doubt/ clarification/ problem related to the project, I used to rush to Dr Bhag Mal's room without any hesitation, thinking he can only take me out of the hot water. You will be surprised to know after listening to me, he used to say " सपरा जी इसमें क्या दिक्कत है? ऐसा करते है, इसको ऐसे कर लेते हैं। (What is the problem in this Mr Sapra? Let us do the way I suggest). Though, his words appear to be very simple, yet relaxing and had the incredible power of solving complex problems for us.

There are many instances which are difficult to recollect where Dr Bhag Mal has been personally helpful to me during the past three decades. However, I always remember two of them and feel delighted to place here on records.

Under Indo-USAID, my visit to United States during the year 1992 under database management project is all because of Dr Bhag Mal's sincere efforts who signed the documents required by the ICAR. I just want to emphasize that Dr Bhag Mal signed these documents against the wishes of the then Director, ICAR-NBPGR; otherwise this visit wouldn't have been possible. I personally feel indebted to him for his timely and daring step in the interest of the work as well as to save me from the unnecessary harassment.

I owe gratitude to Dr Bhag Mal for his instrumental role in my transfer from NBPGR to ICAR-IARI New Delhi in the year 2001. I was scared that Dr Panjab Singh, the then Director, IARI may turn down my request. I approached Dr Bhag Mal and explained my cause of worries. One may not believe, after listening to me, he immediately telephoned Dr Panjab Singh in my presence and



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Eightieth Birthday Celebration of Dr Bhag Mal

requested him to help Dr Sapra. Dr Panjab Singh asked Dr Bhag Mal on the phone, "Is the boy good?", and he immediately responded, "Rest assured, I take his guarantee". Dr Panjab Singh gladly agreed to his request. It will be unfair if I don't mention the name of Dr RS Paroda, the then Director General, ICAR for his invaluable support in the process of my transfer when I met him at the ICAR Hqrs.

I am fortunate enough that I could enjoy the close company of Dr Bhag Mal for almost two years before my retirement from IARI. It is again a coincidence that I used to sit in a room adjacent to Dr Bhag Mal's room located in the Publication unit of IARI. I enjoyed his courtesy mostly during the lunch hours when he used to offer me a cup of tea with his own hands. Sitting in his room, I used to feel relaxed and at home.

It is absolutely difficult to find a person like Dr Bhag Mal. I wish him a long and healthy life. I end up with this statement - "Dr Bhag Mal is a man with a short stature but with a high integrity, incredible positivity and exceptional humanity to help the needy ones".



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Dr Bhag Mal: A Committed Agricultural Scientist

Dr Bhag Mal is an internationally renowned research scientist in the field of management of genetic resources of food and forage crops as well as underutilized crops. He started his research career initially on improvement of fodder and forage crops at the ICAR-Indian Grassland and Fodder Research Institute (IGFRI), Jhansi (Uttar Pradesh). Later, he was selected for a senior position to work on collection, evaluation and characterization of arid legumes, minor fruits and economic plants at the ICAR-NBPGR, Regional Station, Jodhpur (Rajasthan). Subsequently, Dr Bhag Mal was selected as the first Project Coordinator of All India Coordinated Research Project on Underutilized and Underexploited Plants based at the ICAR-NBPGR, New Delhi in 1987. He developed and released several improved varieties of food and forages, underutilized crops for different agro-ecological regions.

As a result of his hard-working nature and keen interest in scientific research, Dr Bhag Mal was appointed on several National and International Research Management positions from time to time. He served as Assistant Director General (Food and Forage crops) and later as ADG (Seeds) at the ICAR Headquarters, New Delhi; later as Director, ICAR-IGFRI, Jhansi (Uttar Pradesh); and Regional Coordinator-Bioversity International (erstwhile IBPGR/IPGRI) Rome.

Dr Bhag Mal was elected President, Chairman and Convener of several reputed scientific societies, Research Coordination Committees to guide and have given directions to research activities in various fields of research programs. He was the Chief Editor of several scientific journals, edited number of books and published several national and international research papers.

Besides holding a successful career in scientific and management positions, Dr Bhag Mal has a very calm, hard-working and friendly nature. He has a positive approach to deal with all kinds of challenges in day-to-day life and provides very appropriate solutions.

On the occasion of his Eightieth Birthday, I wish him - A Very Happy Long and Prosperous Life as well as success in all future endeavours.



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Dr Bhag Mal: A Man Full of Common Sense

As Trust for Advancement of Agricultural Sciences (TAAS) celebrates 80th Birthday of our dear Dr Bhag Mal, I wish him a very happy 80th Birthday and pen down a few lines as my personal regards to him.

From being a great Scientist with dedicated and long service to the arduous task of plant genetic resources, and from being a silent dignified unimposing worker to a very fatherly figure to me and my co-workers at the ICAR-NBPGR, he had been playing multifaceted roles with all grace and humility. It seems he had mastered this art due to his long professional experience. I had known him since 1986 when he was looking after the INDO-USAID program. Later on, my associations with him were during the organizing of International Training Programs at the NBPGR under the ICAR-Bioversity International MoU. It was a smooth sailing, with him at the helm of affairs.



*IPGRI (now Bioversity International) sponsored International Training on Tissue Culture Technologies
– A Group photo of Trainees and Faculty*



Dr Bhag Mal with Rekha Chaudhary and colleagues from ICAR-NBPGR, New Delhi

My heartfelt appreciation to Dr Bhag Mal for facilitating TCCU, NBPGR with all the needed support. We at the NBPGR learnt a lot from him during all the ups and downs especially how to take small simple steps to resolve issues with a smile and cool attitude. His positive actions throughout his career have earned him high respect from all quarters. I do not know how much positivity we were able to imbibe from him. We also are unsure, if we will ever be able to repay you adequately for your contributions to the cause of PGR.

I wish that you have many more active healthy years of your life spent on continuously guiding many more like me. Greetings once again.



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Eightieth Birthday Celebration of Dr Bhag Mal

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Dr Bhag Mal – A Perfect Example of Perseverance

Dr Bhag Mal has reached to the age of 80 years on April 1, 2022. I am sure that many of his contemporary colleagues must have mentioned his numerous contributions what he made during his career with great significance and relevance to Indian agriculture, therefore, I will not venture into attempting and repeat the same here. However, I intend to share briefly some of my observations and experiences working with him. At this important occasion, I recall my active association with Dr Bhag Mal way back from 1992 when he was working as Project Coordinator of All India Coordinated Project on Underutilized Crops and Head of USAID Project Implementation Unit at the ICAR-National Bureau of Plant Genetic Resources (ICAR-NBPGR) and till date – almost 30 years!

Dr Bhag Mal comes from rural background who decided to work in agricultural research (probably because he also belongs to farmer family like me from similar ecosystem). His rural background is a complete fit to study agriculture (always being a rank holder), understands the issues and contributing later after joining agricultural research organizations in various capacities. As I promised earlier, I will not attempt to enumerate his contributions, nevertheless, I cannot stop myself mentioning about his keen interest, perseverance and efficient management to complete the task along with his associates in extremely cool manner. I recall one instance – Dr RS Paroda gave a task to develop the ICAR Guidelines for Management of Genetic Resources – where Dr Bhag Mal was the Chairman and I served as Member-Secretary of the Task Force Committee constituted for the purpose. Since we had to have inputs from 5 bureaux of ICAR (*i.e.*, plants, animal, fish, microbes, and insect), it was being delayed with apprehension of not meeting the timeline. I was impatient to complete the task in time as this publication was to be released in International Agrobiodiversity Congress 2016 by Hon'ble Prime Minister of India. When I discussed with Dr Bhag Mal about this, he listened everything with cool and calm and gave me some suggestions to follow, which worked also and we completed the task well in time. I learnt a lot from him that how one can have perseverance of high level and deliver too. When he was President of the Indian Society of Plant Genetic Resources (ISPGR) almost similar experience I had while working with him as General Secretary of ISPGR to organize a National Symposium.

Whenever I went to meet Dr Bhag Mal, I observed that he is always busy either in reading, writing or editing wherever he worked or works. He is extremely simple, easy-to-approach and a gentleman kind personality. I have not seen much change in him physically and in his simplicity over the years.

I wish him very happy 80th birthday and pray for his best health ever!



Rita Sharma

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Happy Birthday Dr Bhag Mal

Happy 80th birthday Dr Bhag Mal. Congratulations on achieving this major milestone in your life's journey. You are a fine example of why old is gold.

As you celebrate this landmark occasion, I'm sure you look back with great pride and satisfaction on your considerable achievements both professional and personal, just as you look ahead at the even more fulfilling future before you hit the next milestone.

Your achievements as an agricultural scientist and administrator have been many and varied. The world of plant breeding is no doubt richer for your contribution. Your achievements have been duly recognized with the numerous awards and honours which have been bestowed upon you.

It has been a pleasure working with you as part of Team TAAS. Your contribution to the TAAS has been invaluable. I have always been impressed by the superb work you do, in your quietly efficient manner, to keep the TAAS administration on an even keel. Your hard work, attention to detail and painstaking meticulousness is an asset to the smooth working of TAAS. Your enthusiasm, your dedication and your energy are an inspiration to your colleagues. TAAS is lucky to have you as a team member. Thank you for your support.

We hope that with your wisdom, knowledge and other valuable life lessons you will continue to benefit TAAS. Moreover, we wish that your family and near and dear ones continue to receive your care and blessings for many many more years.



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Eightieth Birthday Celebration of Dr Bhag Mal

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Dr Bhag Mal – A Man of Few Words But Quick Action

Dr Bhag Mal, the name defines broad vision and quick action. I joined NBPGR in 1986 as a scientist in National Facility for Plant Tissue Culture Repository (NFPTCR) (now TCCU) and had the good fortune of interacting with many seniors during our formative years at NBPGR. One amongst those who left an impeccable impression on me, were Dr Bhag Mal. To me, he appeared to be very simple, very helpful yet very decisive with good administrative capabilities. I refer to him as a man of few words but of great action. Though I did not directly work with him but there were several occasions when I had a chance to interact with him, at personal or at professional front and he was always very forthcoming. A very soft spoken yet full of enthusiasm about the tasks to be executed well on time. This seemed to be a part of his persona and that is how he very successfully shouldered and executed the responsibility of National Coordinator of All India Coordinated Research Project on Underutilized Crops at NBPGR during 1987-1995 followed by several prestigious National and International assignments. I, for one, never felt shy of discussing with him, day-to-day problems that one confronts at a professional front and he always provided an amicable solution. Thank you Sir for being there whenever needed.

Dr Bhag Mal while handling INDO-USAID project during 1991-94, seemed to be very helpful in facilitating and encouraging young scientists like I and many others from TCCU to be trained on plant cryopreservation aspects at prestigious laboratories of USA. It was that training which ultimately culminated in TCCU being granted the coveted COE (Centre of Excellence) recognition for imparting International training in the field of Plant Cryopreservation.

As South Asia Coordinator, Bioversity International (1998 – 2007), Dr Bhag Mal tried to lend a helping hand to many of us while arranging funds for paper presentation in International seminars/ symposia.

I perceive him as a very balanced person in his approach towards life who seems to have created a work-life balance. To me Dr Bhag Mal is not only a great planner, an able administrator and a research manager, but also a fine human being who seems to gel very easily with his seniors, colleagues and subordinates.

Today, Sir, when you are celebrating your 80th birthday, I sincerely pray to God to keep you in good physical and mental health in the coming years of this blissful journey of life and we remain blessed to enjoy your overwhelming presence in the years to come.



SC Shukla

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Dr Bhag Mal: A Gentleman with Kind Personality

It gives me immense pride to describe the Himalayan Heights of the great Agricultural Scientist of India, Dr Bhag Mal ji who happens to reside with his illustrious family at Ganpati Apptts, Sector 9, Dwarka, New Delhi, where I am also a resident as one of the oldest founder members of this residential Society.

It is a sheer coincidence that Dr Bhag Mal had been a professional colleague of my brother-in-law, Professor Dr MP Pandey, an agricultural scientist himself & former Vice Chancellor of State Agricultural University, Raipur and Ranchi. Whenever he visited us, he invariably expressed his desire to meet Dr Bhag Mal and I always accompanied him to his residence in our Society. I felt it my esteemed privilege to talk and hear the deep and solemn scientific discussions between the two distinguished scientists of agricultural research and development field.

I always found Dr Bhag Mal as fabulously amiable, greatly sombre and extremely benevolent with his riches of knowledge and innovative thoughts. His scholarly depth and extensive research has turned many youngsters into brilliant researchers in the agricultural science. We his co-residents feel ourselves profusely blessed by his noble presence, guidance and motivating thoughts for the enrichment of our social life.

Though he has earned the highest laurels for his brilliant and historical contribution nationally and internationally, yet I always wish him many more great encomiums in the years to follow for the growth of the agricultural wealth of our country and the world. I wish him a happy, healthy and progressive life ahead.



SK Chaudhary

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Dr Bhag Mal: A Wonderful Human Being

Dr Bhag Mal is a known face among Plant Breeder professionals with avert wide national and international exposure. His contribution in Plant Genetic Resources and overall plant sciences has paved a path to new discoveries and innovations, and his contribution towards scientific literature is very meaningful and impressive.

Besides his scientific capabilities and caliber, he has been a wonderful human being who believes in humanity and interpersonal relations.

I am always impressed by his personal touch in professional matters. I pray God for his sound health and healthy life on the occasion of his 80th birthday.



SK Malik

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Dr Bhag Mal: A Perfect Science Crusader

My association with Dr Bhag Mal goes back to 1989-90 when I joined ICAR-National Bureau of Plant Genetic Resources, New Delhi. He was a senior colleague looking after project on underutilized crops, highly respected for his dedication, hard work and intellect. When I met him first, he was Project Coordinator, Underutilized & Underexploited Plants and later on also my association with him continued in some or other way when he was the Director of ICAR-IGFRI, Jhansi and later graced other positions. However, when he was South Asia Coordinator of Bioversity International (earlier International Plant Genetic Resources Institute-IPGRI), we had a rather close association in dealing with various research projects and also during organising International Trainings on Conservation of Tropical Fruits. Later on, with his efforts ICAR-NBPGR was recognised as Centre of Excellence for 'Training on *In vitro* conservation and Cryopreservation' by the Bioversity International.

During organising these International Trainings and other events, I could see the passion, meticulous planning as well as execution qualities of Dr Bhag Mal. I also worked with him when he was the President of Indian Society of Plant Genetic Resources (ISPGR) and I was an Executive Member. His leadership qualities, monitoring minute things and guiding us at each and every stage was really admirable.

His coolness with positive attitude while executing the events and any other small or big work was really unique and appreciable. We never felt in pressure while working with him and his ready to help nature always buoyed our working capacity and work performance. I also would like to mention here that his affection and appreciation for fellow junior colleagues was such that we used to frankly communicate with him and share our problems and seek solutions from him. I am fortunate to have his confidence always and at one point of time I had the opportunity to work with him closely, however, I could not avail it.

How much Dr Bhag Mal values the personal relations are evident from the incident; my wife who teaches in VVDAV Public School at Vikaspuri wanted to invite Dr Bhag Mal as a Chief Guest for the Annual Science Function and I made the humble request to him for this favour which he readily accepted in spite of his busy schedule. His interaction and involvement with teachers and students were such that it was remembered by them for long. I have a family link also as my wife and Dr Bhag Mal's daughter-in-law happens to be the teachers in the same school. He earns very high respect, love and affection in family which he indeed fully deserves. I really feel myself lucky and blessed to have an association with a towering personality like Dr Bhag Mal and feel obliged to write few words about him at this auspicious occasion.

I along with my family wish him all the very best on his 80th Birthday and pray to the Almighty for his good health and happiness for the future life.



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Dr Bhag Mal: A Friend of Friends

Dr Bhag Mal Sahab is an agricultural scientist of repute and has served in national and international organizations on key positions. Any kind of proud, ego and anger never touched him. We have always seen him with smiling face, has an art of pursuing the thing. He always inspires and admires his colleagues. Dr Bhag Mal has a unique quality to understand the weaknesses of a colleague and always tries to convert the weaknesses into strengths to achieve success.

I had long association with him since he joined as Project Coordinator (Underutilized Crops) at the ICAR-NBPGR in 1987, later as ADG at ICAR Hqrs; Director, ICAR-IGFRI Jhansi; Coordinator, Bioversity International (earlier IPGRI), Interim Executive Secretary, APAARI, Bangkok and currently as Secretary, TAAS etc.

Dr Bhag Mal has made significant contributions in science wherever he was posted and made the organization more efficient and vibrant. I have seen him as an excellent research manager, be it as President, Indian Society of Plant Genetic Resources; or at M&AP Consultation meeting of APAARI, Bangkok; or as member of QRT on M&AP, ICAR. He has given very important recommendations everywhere.

Now, he is at 80 years of age, but he is perfectly fit physically with sound mind and sharp memories and is working selflessly for the betterment of the society and humanity at large.

We pray Almighty God that Dr Bhag Mal may live a long life and maintain sound health and cheerful mind. My best regards to him.



SK Sharma

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Dr Bhag Mal : One of My Close Friend

Dr Bhag Mal is known to me since the year 1960 when we both got admission in BSc (Ag) course in Janta Vedic Degree College, Baraut. We formed a group of five very close friends with similar nature and all were very studious. This allowed us to concentrate on our studies and keep away from getting involved in other unwanted activities. We did our graduation and post graduation together from the same college but in different disciplines. During college time, we five forged a close bond which strengthened over time and still continues.

During our 62 years long association, I found Dr Bhag Mal a very simple, down to earth, pleasant and kind hearted person who has always been helpful to all of us and to many others. As a student, he was meritorious and always topped not only the class but the entire college/University. Many classmates were after him for taking his notes for studies and he never dissatisfied them. The faculty and the Principal of the college were very happy with his performance as a topper which rewarded him to get selected as Postgraduate Lecturer in the same college immediately after completion of MSc (Agricultural Botany). He was highly respected teacher among the BSc and MSc students as well as colleagues.

Always conscious of his progress, he left teaching job after two years and joined the post of Senior Research Assistant at Jodhpur Station of Plant Introduction Division of ICAR-IARI in 1966. Since then, he made steady progress in his career and served in different positions as Junior Botanist, Plant Breeder, Head, Plant Improvement Division and later and Director at the ICAR-IGFRI Jhansi; ADG in ICAR Hqrs, Project Coordinator at the ICAR-NBPGR, and excelled every where.

He also served as South Asia Coordinator, Bioersity International (earlier IPGRI) for more than a decade, handled several international projects successfully and later as Senior Consultant in APAARI and made outstanding contributions. Associated with TAAS as Secretary, he is still working with same zeal and contributing significant towards the science and the society.

I feel proud of my close friendship with such a wonderful researcher, administrator and above all a great human being. May God bless him with happy, healthy and long life.



SS Singh

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Dr Bhag Mal: An Excellent Friend, Mentor and a Great Inspirator

I feel proud of being given opportunity to write a few words about our respectable Dr Bhag Mal with whom I joined as Scientist S-1, after clearing Agricultural Research Service (ARS) examination in the year 1977, in the ICAR-Indian Grassland and Fodder Research Institute (ICAR-IGFRI), Jhansi (Uttar Pradesh). Since my discipline was Plant Breeding, I was placed in the Division of Crop Improvement where he was Head at that time. I learnt many things from him in my initial years of service, like how to handle research projects, etc. This encouraged me in taking any kind of challenges in my endeavour to achieve success. This encouraged me to even climbing trees for making crosses, and for which Dr BD Patil, the then Director of the institute praised me time and again.

When I was coordinating and supervising collection, evaluation, maintenance and documentation of pulse crops germplasm under All India Coordinated Pulses Improvement Project (AICPIP) at the ICAR-Indian Institute of Pulses Research (ICAR-IIPR), Kanpur, Dr Bhag Mal has given me an opportunity for training in USA in 1992 when he was the Head, Project Implementation Unit, Indo-USAID PGR Project at the ICAR-NBPGR, New Delhi, It helped me a lot in handling vast national and international pulses germplasm as Coordinator and in supplying needed accessions to pulse breeders of ICAR institutes and agriculture universities.

I am extremely thankful to Dr RS Paroda who was Executive Secretary of Asia Pacific Association of Agricultural Research Institutions (APAARI), wherein Dr Bhag Mal was Senior Consultant, invited me to join as 'Consultant' in 2011 to liaise with APAARI and FAO-RAP, Bangkok for 'Regional Consultation on Improving Wheat productivity in Asia' which was held at Bangkok, Thailand during April 2012. Dr Bhag Mal has given me several tips before the start of the Consultation, and I successfully accomplished duties assigned to me.

A book entitled 'Improving Wheat Productivity in Asia: Proceedings and Recommendations' by APAARI and FAO Regional Office for Asia and Pacific (FAO RAP), Bangkok was published in which I was also one of the editors. In another opportunity to work in association with him as 'Consultant' in APAARI to provide output-oriented scientific, technical and knowledge consultancy to Executive Secretary, APAARI in order to facilitate planning, organizing and follow-up of 'Expert Consultation on Successful Agri-Food Innovations' which was held at Taichung,



Taiwan in November 2016 and thereafter editing/printing of proceedings. With his constant advice and guidelines, two more publications were brought out.

I could get yet another opportunity to work with Dr Bhag Mal in the Trust for Advancement of Agricultural Sciences (TAAS), once again in the year 2019 to provide consultancy services for overseeing the development of success stories, strategy papers by different resource persons, reviewing and editing the manuscripts and processing these for final printing. With due support and guidance of Dr RS Paroda and Dr Bhag Mal, the TAAS has brought out two publications, viz., Biofertilizers and Biopesticides for Enhancing Agricultural Production - A Success Story; and Fish Farming in North India - A Success Story wherein I contributed.

Dr Bhag Mal's contributions are well known for managing several workshops, conferences, seminars (both as physically and virtually) and have been instrumental in bringing out several books, proceedings, success stories etc. of the TAAS and APAARI. I really appreciate how he has been so friendly and supportive of all my efforts. It is my profound privilege to work with such a cool, soft spoken, well-behaved, learned, and experienced person. I enjoyed working with him and it has helped a great deal in my personal growth.

I wish to express my deepest gratitude for his faith in me. He has been an excellent friend, teacher, mentor and a great inspiration for me. I am indebted that he has inspired me greatly to pursue my goals with full dedication. I wish him and his whole family a very happy, healthy and prosperous life.



S Bala Ravi

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Dr Bhag Mal: The Best Example of 80 Being the New 60

Dr Bhag Mal and I had served the ICAR in different capacities and retired in almost nearest years, but still we had to wait for our post-retirement days for an opportunity to meet each other and work together. Post-retirement Dr Bhag Mal joined the Delhi office of Bioversity International (formerly IPGRI, the International Plant Genetic Resources Institute, Rome) as the South Asia Coordinator and I as Advisor of Biodiversity in the MS Swaminathan Research Foundation (MSSRF), Chennai. These roles provided us a stage for close working for about a decade along with Dr Stefano Padulosi of IPGRI, who was the International Coordinator of a project supported by International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD), Rome and located in South Asia, Yemen, Egypt and South America. This project on different neglected crops laid focus on small millets in South Asia, involving India and Nepal. The leadership and coordination of the South Asian project component was entrusted with me on behalf of the MSSRF. The South Asian project partners, apart from MSSRF, included two multi-disciplinary teams in the Agricultural Universities in Bengaluru and Dharwad in India and Nepal Agricultural Research Council (NARC), Kathmandu and Li-Bird, Pokhara, in Nepal.

This project on 'Enhancing the Contribution of Nutritive but Neglected Crops to Food Security and Incomes of the Rural Poor' had a comprehensive approach. In South Asia, it included enhancing productivity of minor millets through quality seed and improved agro-techniques, promoting crop diversity by farmer participatory seed selection, farmer preference to traditional and improved inter cropping system, and their empowerment to quality seed production. Post-harvest activities included deployment of simple

M.S.Swaminathan launches Ragi Malt of Kolli Hills



machineries to render drudgery-free threshing and grain processing, to facilitate value addition to improve bioavailability of these nutritious grains and opening opportunity for developing value added novel products and their marketing for increased farm income. Training and capacity building of farmers and farm women in agro-techniques, seed selection, quality seed production, operation of machineries, production of market driven value-added products and their marketing constituted other important aspect of this project. Two Indian teams of Home Science researchers from State Agricultural Universities in Bengaluru and Dharwad played important role in imparting several value added small millet products for home consumption as well as marketing hands on training on developing several value-added small millet products for home consumption as well as marketing.

This project provided me a close association with Dr Bhag Mal for about ten years during several field visits and interactions with farmers as well as the review of project progress on behalf of the funding agency (IFAD) by independent expert at all project sites and the annual review meetings at MSSRF, Nepal, Al Arish, Sanaa, and Rome. What impressed me the most about Dr Bhag Mal is his pleasing and jovial persona and forthright and incisive analysis of project outcome and practical solutions to technical issues concerned to project implementation by different partners. He was extremely helpful to the project team and highly appreciative of the achievements made by the team on minor millet productivity, value addition, marketing and over all farm income. I am proud to record that his guidance to the South Asian component of this project contributed to remarkable achievements at farm level, skilling the farmers, increased farm family consumption of value-added millet products and income from rural and urban marketing of these products.



I wish Dr Bhag Mal "Happy 80th Birthday" and rejoice at his completion of 80 fruitful and worthy enough years and wish him many more orbits around the Sun with Mother Earth. Age is only a number. But still, an 80th birthday is a pretty big deal, a major milestone. It's a happy time to go back few decades and cherish the good old memories. You are the best example of 80 being the new 60.



Sanjay Deshpande

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My Thoughts About Dr Bhag Mal Sir

I came into contact with Dr Bhag Mal Sir some years back in the TAAS office. From that time whenever I go to the TAAS office for any kind of work, he always gave me proper guidance and support in every matter with affection. I have learned so many things from him. At this age also, his enthusiasm and energy are a great motivation for me.

I would like to wish Dr Bhag Mal Sir many more years of healthy and happy life ahead.



Satish Gaur

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Dr Bhag Mal : A Successful Person

Dr Bhag Mal ji is esteemed person of our society. He is currently handling a very respectable and responsible position as the Trustee and Secretary of the Trust for Advancement of Agricultural Sciences (TAAS). He is very humble, perfect gentlemen, sober and calm person. In such an advanced age of 80 years, generally one suffers with indolence but Dr Saheb keeps himself very busy in his day-to-day scientific activities and other job-related tasks.

He is also very cautious about his health. It is scientifically proven that those who keep themselves busy in their life will live longer. Though he doesn't need any advice yet I suggest him to enjoy his life and forget about his age.

I am sure that coming years of his life will bring him more success, good health and happiness.

Successful persons like Dr Saheb are not gifted; they just work hard, then succeed.



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Eightieth Birthday Celebration of Dr Bhag Mal

Satyapal Singh Panwar

(A Classmate of Dr Bhag Mal)

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डॉ. भागमल: सहपाठी के साथ एक अनन्य एवं सहृदय मित्र

अपने परम मित्र डॉ. भागमल साहब के 80 वें जन्मदिन पर उनको हार्दिक बधाई। जब मैं उनके बारे में अपने विचार व्यक्त करने लिए कलम उठाई तो मेरी यादों का घेरा मुझे 1958 जुलाई में खींच ले गया जब हम ग्यारवीं कक्षा में आये थे, न जाने किस आकर्षण ने मुझे और डॉ. साहब को सहपाठी के साथ साथ दोस्त भी बना दिया जो आज तक सजीव चला आ रहा है।

मैं डॉ. साहब का दोस्त होने पर गर्व महसूस करता हूँ। मैं द्वितीय श्रेणी और डॉ. साहब हमेशा प्रथम श्रेणी में पास होते रहे। इसी वजह से वे उसी पी.जी. कॉलेज में प्रोफेसर लगे, यह उस जमाने में बड़ी बात थी। फिर मैंने ही एक दिन उनसे कहा कि भाई यहाँ तो यूँ ही रिटायर्ड हो जाओगे कहीं भारत सरकार में जाओ और डॉ. साहब ने सीनियर रिसर्च असिस्टेंट बनकर आईएआरआई के प्लांट इंट्रोडक्शन डिवीजन में ज्वाइन कर लिया। उसके बाद भाई साहब ने पीछे मुड़कर नहीं देखा और तरक्की की सीढ़ियों पर चढ़ते चले गए। यही खुबियाँ हैं जो डॉ. साहब की मेहनत और लगन उनको उच्चतम दर्जे तक लेकर गयी। मैं कल इनमें विकार ढुढ़ने में लगा रहा लेकिन मुझे ये निर्विकार मिलें क्या करूँ, मजबूरी में इनकी काबलियत के बारे में लिख रहा हूँ।

डॉ. साहब में मिलावट, बनावट, सिखावट बिल्कुल नहीं, हैं तो सिर्फ मुस्कुराहट वो खुलकर हंसने की आदत और चेहरे पर अलग ही चुम्बकीय आकर्षण लेकर दूसरों से मिलना एवं उनको अपना बना लेने का आभास लिए हैं। मैंने इतने लम्बे समय में डॉ. साहब को कभी गुस्से में नहीं देखा अपनी जिम्मेदारियों से विमुखन हीं देखा, बहाने करते नहीं देखा। सहपाठी, रिश्तेदार, भाई-बहन आदि सभी इनको अपने करीब पाते हैं व विश्वसनीय सहायक मानते हैं हम सभी सहपाठी डॉ. शिवचरण शर्मा (पूर्व प्रोफेसर हकृवि, हिसार), डॉ. धरम सिंह चौहान (पूर्व कोऑर्डिनेटर-गेहूँ, करनाल) अगर हम सभी को अभी भी एक जगह बैठने का मौका मिले तो अब भी हँसी-मजाक भरमार कर लेंगे और हँस-हँसकर बुरा हाल कर लेंगे।

“मैं जब सोयाबीन प्रोजेक्ट में टीकमगढ (मध्यप्रदेश) में 1968 में था जब जीप सर्विस कराने झाँसी जाता था तब डॉ. साहब के साथ ही ठहरता था। उन्होंने एक बार मुझे फार्म घुमाया और मैंने देखा उनके सभी साथीगण डॉ. साहब के साथ बड़े मधुर सबन्धों में रहते थे। एक बार मैं भटिन्डा से दिल्ली आया था जब मैं उनसे मिलने गया तो अक्समात उस दिन डॉ. साहब पंखा रोड जनकपुरी में एक प्लाट लेने की रजिस्ट्री की तैयारी कर रहे थे मुझे उन्होंने कहा भाई प्लाट आधा-आधा कर लेते हैं मैं रकम लगा



दूंगा और धीरे-धीरे देते रहना परन्तु मैंने मनाकर दिया कि मेरे पास मेरठ में प्लाट है। लेकिन क्या आज के जमाने में कोई ऐसा प्रस्ताव दे सकता है जो अपनी व्यक्तिगत रकम से दोस्त के नाम प्लाट की रजिस्ट्री कराने के लिए तैयार हो जाए। ऐसे है हमारे भाई जी।

डॉ. साहब में आचार-विचार, व्यवहार शिष्टाचार, कूट-कूटकर भरा है। वे निर्विकार जीवन के धनी रहें इसीलिए वे भागमल (भाग्यवान) है। मैं डॉ. साहब के लम्बे जीवन शतायु की भगवान एवं माँ दुर्गा से प्रार्थना करता हूँ कि वे और उनका परिवार स्वस्थ रहे, व्यस्त रहे और मस्त रहें।



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About Dr Bhag Mal

Dr Bhag Mal, my close friend, is a person with full positivity and balanced compassion. In his eventful long professional journey, he has made significant achievements and it is time to rejoice and celebrate.

The saying that ' OLD is GOLD' fits very well in case of Dr Bhag Mal. We welcome

Dr Bhag Mal in the Octogenarian agricultural scientists 'CLUB'' of our country.

Dr Bhag Mal is a dedicated and highly dependable colleague.

I wish him a long productive life with good health.



Some Glimpses of TAAS Consultation Meetings



Some Colleagues at TAAS



Dr Bhag Mal with Drs Raj Paroda, NN Singh, RM Singh and PS Sirohi



Dr Bhag Mal with Drs RS Paroda, VL Chopra, SK Vasal, Anupam Varma and JL Karihaloo



Dr Bhag Mal in Dr RS Paroda's chamber with Drs ML Madan and MP Yadav



Dr Bhag Mal with some senior colleagues at TAAS



Dr Bhag Mal with Agriculture Minister Sh Radha Mohan Singh, Dr Raj Paroda & other participants attending National Dialogue on 'Innovative Extension Systems for Farmers' Empowerment and Welfare'



Dr Bhag Mal along Group of Experts in Brainstorming Meeting on Harnessing IP for Agricultural Growth



Dr Bhag Mal with participants of the Regional Conference on MAYA



Bhagmal@80

Eightieth Birthday Celebration of Dr Bhag Mal



Dr Bhag Mal attending National Dialogue on Land Use for Integrated Livestock Management



Dr Bhag Mal with dignitaries and participants of National Dialogue on Indian Seed Sector

Shashank Mauria

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Dr Bhag Mal: A Person Creating a Work Environment

My association with Dr Bhag Mal dates back to mid-1980s from ICAR-NBPGR. It became much closer as we together moved in early 1988 to ICAR Hqrs in Krishi Bhawan, New Delhi for higher national responsibilities in Crop Science Division. Together, we were involved in several management reforms and new R&D schemes.

Unlike the general administrative environment, where bosses want to hear what they like; in him, I found a senior to whom you can talk freely and frankly, with no fear whatsoever.

In him, I found excellent qualities of both head and heart. His profound mental faculties to keep any subject in perspective clearly separating the emotional issues, is an excellent characteristic which I have always admired. A man with a heart of gold, he comes out as an unassuming, cool, calm and dignified personality, also highly persuasive, impactful and influential.

In him, I found a person creating a work environment in which colleagues feel empowered to do much better with focus and passion. Naturally, he moved ahead with more national and international responsibilities in the Asia-Pacific Region.

It was, therefore, obvious that I jumped with enthusiasm to write about him on being given an opportunity as the TAAS celebrates his 80th Birthday.

We were recently associated for a noble cause for superannuated ICAR scientists, and I felt once again lucky to work with him for a common cause. He has a vision with a detailed agenda for the welfare of the whole community of retired agricultural scientists in India. In our twilight years, it was once again a treat to see his never-say-die approach, and we remain committed to continue the cause taken up by him, and clearly remain hopeful under his dynamic leadership.

I will always be praying to the Almighty for His ever-continuing blessings bestowed on our beloved and respected Dr Bhag Mal.

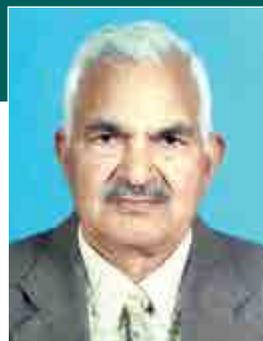


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Dr Bhag Mal: Our Association from School Days with Strong Bondage of Friendship

I feel greatly privileged and honoured that I have been asked to write these few lines about my closest and best friend Dr Bhag Mal, retired eminent agricultural scientist.

We both have been good friends from our schooling time but actual strong bondage of friendship started after our matriculation (10th standard) examination. Here I would like to mention that Dr Bhag Mal passed not only in first division but he was among the topper students of the school. After high school, we became classmates in first year of agriculture in Janta Vedic Inter College of Baraut, Uttar Pradesh. Here also, he was topper of the class and we came more closer to each other. We did our BSc (Ag) and MSc (Ag Botany) together from Janta Vedic College, Baraut under the auspices of Agra University, Agra.

After doing our MSc (Ag Botany), we both applied for the post of Assistant Professor in Janta Vedic College (Agra University) and also for the post of Research Assistant in the Division of Plant Introduction, ICAR-IARI, New Delhi. At that time, we took a pledge that whosoever among the two of us will be selected for the position first interviewed will not appear for interview for the other post. Though, I was not selected but I was very happy to see that my friend Dr Bhag Mal was selected for the post of Assistant Professor in Janta Vedic College, Baraut and joined there. After about one month, both of us were called for interview for the post of Research Assistant in Plant Introduction Division of ICAR-IARI and Dr Bhag Mal kept the promise and did not attend the interview. Fortunately, I was selected and joined that post at IARI. We often used to meet and discuss about different things including agricultural research.

It so happened that after about two years, a post of Senior Research Assistant for Jodhpur Station of Plant Introduction Division was advertised and my friend Dr Bhag Mal was selected and he joined at Jodhpur. Thus, we again came together in IARI. This is how our bondage of friendship went on increasing. I will add that this opportunity gave him the chance to get senior positions one after another. Soon he became the Coordinator of All India Project on Underutilized Plants at ICAR-NBPGR, New Delhi and also served as ADG (Seeds), ICAR. Later, he jumped to higher position as Director, ICAR-IGFRI, Jhansi. Here also, he showed his worth



and potential of excellent leadership and got selected as South Asia Coordinator of Bioversity International where he served for more than a decade.

It is astonishing that even after his retirement, he continued working with the same zeal and vigour first as Senior Consultant APAARI and now as Trustee and Secretary, TAAS under the dynamic leadership of Dr RS Paroda. I know how he has been working in the ICAR which paid him the dividend that he richly deserves. His dedication and commitment to work, hard-working nature and honesty are the reasons of his being highly placed in the ICAR cadre. I strongly applaud his all-round achievements in the field of agricultural research. I congratulate him for all his achievements.

His power of writing, listening and reading has been wonderful. If he listens something once, he will never forget it. I used to feel jealous of his handwriting, I tried to copy but all in vain.

I wish him a long, healthy, peaceful and successful life ahead.



Shiv Raj Singh

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Dr Bhag Mal: Revived A Forgotten Close Friend after 50 Years

Hearliest Congratulations to my dearest friend Dr Bhag Mal on his 80th Birthday. My association with Dr Bhag Mal starts from the year 1954 when I passed class 5 from my village school and entered class 6 in a nearby village school named as "Arya Vidyalaya High School", Tera, Distt. Baghpat (Uttar Pradesh). Dr Bhag Mal, only (Bhag Mal) then, also got admission in class 6 after passing class 5 from other school from his maternal uncle's village where he was residing.

As we were in the same class, I often interacted with him and found very intelligent with beautiful Hindi handwriting which I tried to copy but could not succeed. I found him short statured but down to earth and very humble. He left the school after passing class 6 and joined some other school in a different village where his maternal uncle's friend was the Principal. After that I lost contact with him for a long time. So initially, it was a brief one-year contact only.

Later, when I was already in job and shifted to Delhi from Sindri, we accidentally met again at a common friend's party in Inderpuri, New Delhi, after a gap of almost 50 years. We recognised each other but this time, he was Dr Bhag Mal working at a very senior level post of South Asia Coordinator, Bioersivity International, an international institute under the CGIAR. Even after so much significant achievements in his career, I found him the same down to earth and very humble person without a trace of pride. Since then, we are in constant touch with each other through meetings, social events and other occasions as well as through WhatsApp. He is one of my best friends as he is amicable, humble, trustworthy, helpful and always smiling.

I cofounded a girl's high school in my native village in the year 1997 wherein Shri Rajnath Singh, the present Defence Minister of India was also once the 'Guest of Honour' and donated Rs. 5.0 Lacs for this charitable school. Dr Bhag Mal also later got associated and became a life member of the Trust and contributed a lot for this school through his motivational lectures for the girl students as the Chief Guest and also through generous funding from time to time. His still continues to support and pay visits to the school every now and then.

As Dr Bhag Mal has completed 80 years of healthy life on 1st April, 2022, I wish him many more years of same type of life with good health, peace and prosperity in the years to come. God bless him.



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डॉ. भाग मल: मेरे मार्गदर्शक, मेरे गुरु

डॉ. भाग मल सर से मेरा परिचय अगस्त 2011 में हुआ जब मैं पहली बार टॉस में इंटरव्यू देने आई थी, मैं बहुत नर्वस थी। जब मैं आई तो भाग मल सर जोकि तब अपारी (APAARI) के कंसलटेंट थे, ने मेरा इंटरव्यू लिया और उन्होंने मुझे बहुत सहज महसूस करवाया और कहा कि बिलकुल भी टेंशन लेने की जरूरत नहीं है। ईमानदारी से अपना काम करो और अगर कुछ समझ न आये तो बेझिझक पूछ सकते हो कोई काम समझाने से मना नहीं करेगा।

मुझे याद है जब अक्टूबर 2014 में मुझे पहली बार एशियाई मक्का सम्मेलन (Asian Maize Conference) के लिए विदेश यात्रा पर थाईलैंड जाना था। मैं पहले कभी इंडिया से बाहर नहीं गयी। यहां तक कि मैं इंडिया में भी कहीं अकेले नहीं गयी थी। मैं बहुत डरी हुई थी कि अकेले कैसे मैनेज कर पाऊंगी। तब भाग मल सर ने मुझे हौसला दिया कि तुम टेंशन मत लो, हम भी तो होंगे।

भाग मल सर से मुझे बहुत से नये काम सीखने को मिले। कोई छोटे से छोटे काम के बारे में भी सर से पूछूँ तो बहुत प्यार से सलाह देते हैं जैसे कि हमे अपने पेरेंट्स समझाते हैं। सर से मुझे अच्छा मार्गदर्शन मिलता है और साथ ही साथ अपना काम पूरी निष्ठा के साथ करने की प्रेरणा भी मिलती है। मैं अपने आपको बहुत सौभाग्यशाली समझती हूँ कि मुझे टॉस में और डॉ. भाग मल सर के साथ काम करने का अवसर प्राप्त हुआ है।

मैं भगवान से प्रार्थना करती हूँ कि डॉ. भाग मल सर को लम्बी उम्र एवं अच्छा स्वास्थ्य प्रदान करें।



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Dr Bhag Mal: A Great Human Being Par Excellence

It is indeed a pleasure to be able to contribute to this compilation on Dr Bhag Mal. My association with Dr Bhag Mal goes back to 1990s when I knew him just as a colleague of my father. My memories from those days are of him sitting in his office at International Plant Genetic Resources Institute (IPGRI) and immersed in work for hours together. Later on, when I joined Bioversity International (earlier known as IPGRI), I had the privilege to interact with him at a professional level. Though he was no longer with the organization by the time I joined, the anecdotes shared by my colleagues bore a testament to how ably he had headed the IPGRI India office in those days.

Since 2014, I have had the opportunity to interact with him on various occasions and different platforms. What never ceases to amaze me about him is his absolute commitment to his work and his eye for detail. His passion for work at his age is awe inspiring. Another thing that always strikes me is his humility despite all his professional achievements.

On this milestone birthday, I wish him many more years of good health so that he continues to do what he is passionate about.

Stefano Padulosi

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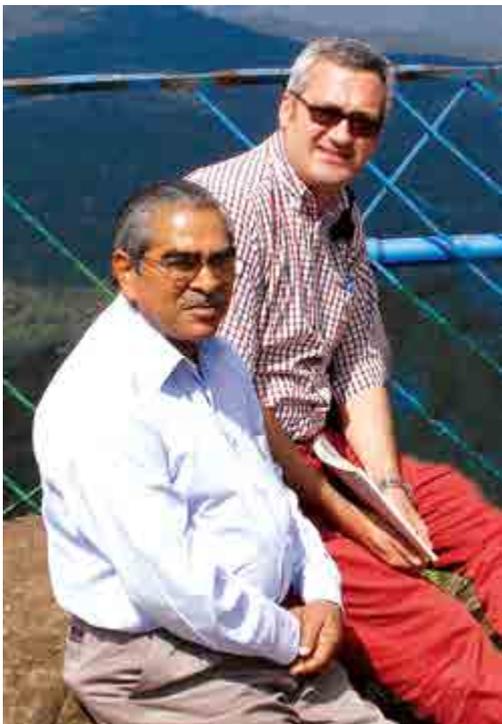
Dr Bhag Mal: A Personality Ahead of Time

It is a great pleasure for me to prepare this write up on Dr Bhag Mal, a dear colleague and friend of mine, whom I met for the first time some 25 years ago in New Delhi, at the office of what was then the International Plant Genetic Resources Institute (IPGRI) (which later became Bioversity International and more recently the Alliance of Bioversity and CIAT). Great is my admiration and respect for Dr Bhag Mal for his scientific stature and his relentless commitment in making this a better world through the better use of agricultural biodiversity. Our common interest in the conservation and sustainable use of underutilized species, including wild and cultivated species, has been the driving force of a long cooperation at the time of my tenure as Senior Scientist at IPGRI/Bioversity, while coordinating the institutional research on neglected and underutilized species (NUS), a work which ended in 2019 in view of my retirement. In particular, Dr Bhag Mal provided unparalleled guidance in the implementation of two IFAD-funded Projects, viz, Grant 533 and Grant 899, which ran from 2001 till 2005 and from 2007 till 2010, respectively. These were the very first UN funded projects dedicated to the promotion of NUS. India being one of the participating countries to such projects, numerous official missions that I undertook in South Asia together with Dr Bhag Mal, to visit projects sites or to pay courtesy calls to partner agencies, such as the MS Swaminathan Research Foundation (MSSRF) in Chennai.

It brings with me fond memories of the time spent with him, during which we travelled for long hours to remote communities in Tamil Nadu, Odisha, Uttarakhand or even in Nepal, the other partner country involved in these efforts. In those unforgettable travels arranged in the strong and reliable Hindustan *Ambassador* cars, we interacted with farmers, women and men, local experts and technicians, renowned scientists (such as Prof MS Swaminathan), academicians, politicians and just simple community members, who were eager to share with us the challenges faced in growing millets or to seek advice in making the most out of their *orphan crops*. Such trips were source of unique learning and human growth to me, as I was able to witness the great wisdom held by farmers in India on how to recognize, cultivate and use local biodiversity, whose resilience to climate change is today recognized as one of the greatest assets for the future of humankind.

Dr Bhag Mal played a great role in forging with our partners, at all levels, a genuine trust which we hope to have paid back during the course of the projects' implementation, by providing them improved seeds and cultivation practices, enhanced marketing strategies, better processing technologies and cooking methods, raised awareness over the benefits of NUS, and in general, by supporting social growth, especially among the vulnerable groups, such as women and elderly people.





To this last point, I am indebted to Dr Bhag Mal for his gentle touch during our interactions with local communities, as he praised the hard work of women, stimulating their sense of self-esteem and contributing to ignite their personal and collective empowerment. Dr Bhag Mal is also a renowned prolific scientific writer and I am proud to have jointly written numerous papers, which I trust have contributed to raise the attention of decision makers, in India and elsewhere around the world, over the need for the greater safeguard, promotion and enhanced use of NUS.

I am very happy to see that Dr Bhag Mal has not been idle at all since he retired from IPGRI and on the contrary has been playing all along an active role in TAAS, in his capacity of Trustee and Secretary.

I am delighted to see that through his recent work, has contributed to promote further the knowledge on NUS for the benefit of the whole scientific community. I wish him many happy returns at the occasion of his 80th birthday!

Sudhir Kumar Jain

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Dr Bhag Mal: EIGHTY-Energetic, Inexhaustible, Grounded, Humble, Terrific and Youthful

It is said that:

“Count your age by friends, not years. Count your life by smiles, not tears

John Lennon”

Greetings and many many happy returns of the day! I have known Dr Bhag Mal for the last 35 years! A beloved person who has been a part of our daily lives, committed, honest, selfless, helpful, man of action with an ever-smiling face, greeting us in every meeting over a few decades, a role-model to all of us. He has always done well, meant well, and has accomplished things throughout the expanse of his life that I could only dream of.

Eighty in Dr Bhag Mal's life stands for- Energetic, Inexhaustible, Grounded, Humble, Terrific, and Youthful. I congratulate him on reaching this milestone. Have a great 80th birthday Dr Bhag Mal! It is evident that older things were built to last, built better, and with superior materials. At this age, most people forget most of what they've ever known; but not you, Sir ! He is as sharp as a track, and if I attain his sharpness of eighty at the half of his age (that is 40), I would consider myself a great achiever.

In my initial years after joining at ICAR-NBPGR, I used to meet him when he was Coordinator, AICRP (UUP) and Head, Project Implementation Unit, Indo-USAID PGR Project and later when he was South Asia Coordinator, Bioversity International (formerly, IPGRI), New Delhi, his words of advice and wisdom has boosted my morale a great deal. He used to be always in cheerful mood, making work fun, always has given meticulous guidance to me whenever I met him especially on seed gene bank/ laboratories infrastructure development, procurement of many equipments (both indigenous and imported). It all created such a sweet memory of the times which we shared together. He was always positive and supportive to the right cause; He has tirelessly dedicated his life to the cause of the ICAR institutions and its' people. He stood by my side throughout my career as a great mentor.

The boxed gift that we presented him on his birthday will have a humble price. But the gift of wisdom and memories, which he has given to us is truly priceless. I don't need books and teachers to tell me how to live my life when I grow up but I do request you to share us his "secret" diet plan that he has been following all these years. Even I want to be as healthy and hearty as him when I am eighty. He is RE-TYRING and not RETIRING. So, we wish that he enjoys his post-80th life (many more years) with his family and friends, full of health and happiness. In all these years, I was blessed with a very pleasant and rewarding experience. Ending, with a desire once again to *work in close association, learn even more with a special wish to imbibe some of his good qualities.*



Bhagmal@80

Eightieth Birthday Celebration of Dr Bhag Mal

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Dr Bhag Mal: An Accomplished Scientist and A Stress Reliever

In 1998, as a greenhorn scientist from ICAR-National Bureau of Plant Genetic Resources (NBPGR), I had the opportunity to meet Dr Bhag Mal for the first time. He was heading the IPGRI (South Asia) and the office was located in the old campus of the NBPGR. That was the period when reports were accessed and read in hard copies! I used to request FAO for various reports and they used to be delivered through IPGRI office. Dr Bhag Mal graciously used to call me to personally handover the books. He explained to me how national programs and regional meetings culminate into global reports. He educated me how to draw more knowledge from tables and charts of such reports.

During the organization of International Agrobiodiversity Congress 2016 (IAC 2016) at New Delhi, I worked as the Member Secretary of the Technical Program Committee. Dr Bhag Mal, representing APAARI, was a member of the committee. I recall, with fondness, his inputs in managing the technical program and the speakers. We were always running against the time and his calming influence helped me manage my responsibilities. During the IAC 2016, I convened a Technical Session "Science-led Innovation: PGR Informatics". Dr Bhag Mal, as Co-Chair, managed the session very well, particularly providing the recommendations quickly. Brevity and swiftness are his hallmark.

I am highly impressed by the way Dr Bhag Mal conducts himself in the face of stressful situations as well his excellent ability to bring out publications timely, and I would like to follow his footsteps.



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Dr Bhag Mal: A Living Legend of PGR, Forage Crops and Policy Issues

Dr Bhag Mal is well known in his areas of work, viz., plant genetic resources (PGR), forage crops and seed science and also policy issues related to PGRFA both nationally and internationally. He has several original research papers and reviews to his credit which are widely acclaimed. He has also proved his managerial skills through his excellent contributions in a wide range of activities of the ICAR in various capacities such as Director, ICAR-IGFRI; ADG (Seed); Coordinator (Underutilized crops), member of several Quinquennial Review Teams.

Dr Bhag Mal is a very knowledgeable person and gets deeply involved in any assignment he works on. He actively participates in discussions and makes his points in a very convincing and practical manner. His commitment has never failed and this I witnessed first-hand during the QRT meetings for review of ICAR-NBPGR (2013-18), when he was a member. He was very active during meetings, during field visits and also promptly gave his inputs for drafting the proceedings. He has excellent vision for sustainable development in agriculture and PGR particular. During QRT meeting, his critical observations and suggestions find the place in recommendations. His learned and vast experience always reflected during discussion at any point of time.

Dr Bhag Mal is a leader who believes in team work and is well organized. He has excellent communication skills and a very positive attitude. Above all he is highly considerate and a human being par excellence. I wish him for good health and happy life.



Dr Bhag Mal with Drs MP Pandey, SC Dubey, Kuldip Singh and other colleagues visiting NBPGR RS Hyderabad



Dr Bhag Mal receiving memento from Dr SC Dubey and B Sarath Babu



Bhagmal@80

Eightieth Birthday Celebration of Dr Bhag Mal

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Always Pleasure to Work with Dr Bhag Mal

I was introduced to Dr Bhag Mal, then Director of the ICAR-IGFRI, Jhansi by a common friend of ours. He was very simple and warm, typical of a person, born in the upper Doab region. We continued to interact on various academic fora on the topic of genetic resources and their conservation. However, a closer interaction started during his association with the TAAS as a Senior Consultant and later as Secretary. I could get the same feeling of simplicity and warmth. His ability to go along with young colleagues is another inspiring quality of his personality. He has grown tremendously in his understanding of broader agricultural issues, ability to articulate them and put on the table efficiently. This was visible from his support to various activities of the TAAS, but it was more visible when we worked together for the committee under the chairmanship of Dr RS Paroda on 'Secure and Sustainable Agriculture'.

He was very systematic in documentation of all discussions, including related to economics and governance, without any difficulty or shortcomings. It was possible because of whole-hearted support that the committee submitted a very comprehensive report to the Principal Scientific Advisor, Government of India within a short period of time. His writing skills were again visible from publications of TAAS and more recently a comprehensive publication 'Accelerating Science-led Growth in agriculture-Two Decades of TAAS'. It has always been a pleasure to work with Dr Bhag Mal and hope to do so in future also.

I wish him good health, happiness and much more productive years ahead.



Surinder K Vasal

Millennium World Food Prize Winner (2000)

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Dr Bhag Mal: My Best Wishes for A Happy, Healthy and An Ever-Prospering Life

At the outset I express my sincerest apology especially to dear Dr Bhag Mal and to the rest of the TAAS staff for not being able to attend this auspicious event celebrating 80th birthday of my most respected friend Bhag Mal ji. Equally I missed seeing several of my known scientists who participated in lunch hosted by the TAAS. I do regret missing this occasion for some unavoidable personal reasons. I extend you Sir my heartiest congratulations and best wishes on your happy birthday.

In my own opinion and assessment, I find you a respectable and noble soul always ready to help me whenever I have visited TAAS office.

My acquaintance and association with you have grown profoundly since you have joined the TAAS office and are carrying out an unusual burden and responsibility as Secretary of TAAS. It is indeed gratifying to mention that a handful of staff including you, Dr Umesh Srivastava, a talented and hard-working Secretary Ms Simmi had the fortune to work under the leadership of one of the top renowned scientist and administrator like Dr RS Paroda who has contributed immensely at national, regional and international level.

I am sincerely proud of diverse activities that the TAAS has taken over in the past two decades and made wonderful suggestions and recommendations to ICAR and private sector on a spectrum of issues, most important and relevant facing agriculture nationally and globally. In this respect your contributions to the TAAS deserve a special praise. A series of wonderful, informative and impressive publications are now available for which the whole TAAS team has played an important role and the entire scientific community deeply appreciate your efforts. Simmi was kind enough to share many photos of this happy occasion.

I pray our association will continue growing in future and your engagement with the TAAS will be strengthened and continue in the coming years. In the end I extend my very best wishes for a happy, healthy and an ever-prospering life for you and your family.

Warmest regards.



Bhagmal@80

Eightieth Birthday Celebration of Dr Bhag Mal

Some Glimpses of Meetings with Dignitaries

Alliance of Bioversity International & CIAT (earlier IPGRI)



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Dr Bhag Mal: A Man of Calculated and Precise Words!

I have an honour of knowing and interacting with Dr Bhag Mal at different platforms and also as a member of various expert committees of ICAR and NAAS. He has been chair/member of number of committees which comes under crop science division of ICAR. I am really very much impressed with his very precise and to the point interaction during the scientific deliberations. His critical inputs and suggestions formed part of many recommendations of our programs and helped us in doing mid-term corrections of our AICRP on Fodder Crops and many other programs related to genetic resources.

Dr Bhag Mal, a plant breeder of international repute has immensely contributed towards agricultural research and development. His contributions in the form of 6 varieties of forage crops and 10 varieties of underutilized crops are praiseworthy. He has successfully managed and coordinated several international projects and training programs. He chaired/co-chaired scientific sessions in several national and international conferences. He had also been member of several high-level committees at the national and international level. Dr Bhag Mal served as President, Indian Society of Plant Genetic Resources, NBPGR, New Delhi; Indian Society of Range Management and Agroforestry, IGFR, Jhansi; and Vice President, Indian Society of Genetics and Plant Breeding, IARI, New Delhi; Indian Society of Plant Genetic Resources, NBPGR, New Delhi; Indian Society of Plant Sciences, CCSHAU, Hisar. He has to his credit more than 150 publications including research papers, strategy papers, books, book chapters and conference proceedings. He is the recipient of several awards and honours including 'Dr Harbhajan Singh Memorial Award' for his excellent services for PGR. He held several important positions, namely, Interim Executive Secretary and Senior Consultant, APAARI, Bangkok; South Asia Coordinator, Bioversity International, Rome; Director, ICAR-IGFR, Jhansi; ADG (Seeds) and ADG (Food and Fodder Crops), ICAR, New Delhi; and National Coordinator, All India Coordinated Research Project on Underutilized Crops, ICAR-NBPGR, New Delhi. Currently, he is the Secretary, Trust for Advancement of Agricultural Sciences (TAAS), New Delhi.

I am really very happy to know that the TAAS is bringing out a booklet on the occasions of 80th Birthday of Dr Bhag Mal. It is really a great tribute to the contributions of a reputed gentleman scientist, who has devoted his whole career for the advancement of agricultural sciences. My heartiest congratulations to Dr Bhag Mal on this special occasion. I wish him a very happy and healthy life ahead.



Bhagmal@80

Eightieth Birthday Celebration of Dr Bhag Mal

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Dr Bhag Mal: A Much-Valued Committed Senior Colleague and A Great Friend

I take this opportunity to express some of my feelings and impressions. I feel very fortunate that I could know Dr Bhag Mal way back in 1979-1980 (much before when I first met him personally) when I was at ICAR-NBPGR Regional Station, Akola (Maharashtra). Dr HP Bhatia, Officer-in-Charge there used to praise him so much almost everyday. In those days I had extreme desire to meet him earliest possible. In fact, I met him personally in 1987 when he joined as Project Coordinator (Underutilized crops) and then, I found him more than what Dr Bhatia narrated to me about him. In the very first meeting, I found in him a nice gentleman beyond imagination. We started liking each other so much that from 1987 till date, we are exchanging our ideas a great deal. When he was Editor-in-Chief of the Indian Journal of Plant Genetic Resources (IJPGR), where I helped him as one of the 'Editor' for a very long time in the Editorial team. When he left ICAR-NBPGR to join as ADG (Seed) and later as ADG (FFC) at the ICAR Headquarters; as Director, ICAR-IGFRI, Jhansi and again as South Asia Coordinator at Bioversity International (formerly IPGRI), South Asia Office at New Delhi, but our association remained intact all the time.

I find him an excellent human being and a most energetic and highly motivated and skilled-driven individual. He is a silent worker, possessing deep knowledge on various aspects of science and always deeply engrossed in preparing scientific documents, particularly for the benefit of the policy planners. I also find in him maintaining excellent personal relationship to one and all. Apart his enlightened leadership both in terms of scientific contribution and developmental strategies, he possesses rare combination of scientific excellence and able manager par excellence. In the process, I adjudge him developing his personality in terms of high level of strategic judgement and adaptability and resourceful person, developing inter-personal relationship, motivation techniques, negotiation skills, communication ability, persuasive power and skills to develop win-win relationship with the network of seniors as well as peers and junior colleagues. Dr Bhag Mal is a person who always radiates positive energy. He is a gentleman to the core and a man personifying dedication and hard work. His humbleness and always willing nature of extending a helping hand with a smile has endeared him to one and all. Among others, his personal early fruitful association with a stalwart and a visionary dynamic leader, Dr Raj Paroda made him most dependable and trustworthy with bonds of vibrant affinity between them.



डॉ भागमल वास्तव में यह एक 'हीरा' आदमी हैं। इनकी रुझान अधिकतर कृषि जैवविविधता, पशु-चारा, पादप आनुवंशिक संसाधन (पीजीआर) एवं अनुसन्धान प्रबंधन में रही। इनका विज्ञान, प्रतिबद्धता और दूसरों को समझा पाने की क्षमता, साथ साथ विश्लेषण की क्षमता और किसी काम को करने में 'मिशनरी उत्साह' मैंने साक्षात् देखा है। 50-55 वर्षों का इनका व्यापक अनुभव, आज के विज्ञान के क्षेत्र में, नए-नए नवाचारों के साथ, अनुसन्धान प्रबंधन के क्षेत्र में पूरी क्षमता, इनका विदेशों में व्यापक भ्रमण एवं राष्ट्रीय कृषि अनुसन्धान पद्धति (NARS) के साथ प्रगाढ़ अनुभव, भारत तथा दक्षिण एशिया में कृषि अनुसन्धान, राष्ट्रीय एवं अंतर्राष्ट्रीय अनुसंधान प्रबंधन, तदुपरांत कृषि-उत्पादकता वृद्धि में इनकी अग्रणी भूमिका रही है। डॉ भागमल एक उम्दा व्यक्ति हैं। मृदुभाषी हैं, जोश से भरे हुए हैं एवं कौशल में निपुण हैं। एक विशेषता और भी है इनकी, इनका एक-दूसरे से परस्पर-सम्बन्ध अति उत्तम है।



Dr Bhag Mal with Dr Umesh Srivastava and Ms Simmi Dogra in TAAS Office

I would like to mention here that we both have commonalities which brings us together. He graduated from a college of Agra University, Agra. I also did my BSc, MSc and PhD from Agra University. We both started serving after MSc and completed PhD program while in service. We both work together for the Indian Society of Plant Genetic Resources (ISPGR) since its beginning and for its Journal IJPGR for so many years (around 20 years). We both worked as Editor and Editor-in-Chief of IJPGR for several years. I always interacted with him, at personal or at professional front and he is always very forthcoming. He is always a smiling, soft-spoken,



cheerful, full of enthusiasm, bubbling with golden heart and sweetest words, not only for family but all the people in his proximity. This seemed to be a part of his persona and that is how he very successfully shoulder and execute any responsibilities given to him.

यह मेरा बहुत बड़ा सौभाग्य है कि जीवन के इस पड़ाव पर एक बार फिर से हम दोनों साथ साथ 'कृषि विज्ञान उन्नयन ट्रस्ट (ट्रस्ट फॉर एडवांसमेंट ऑफ एग्रीकल्चरल साइंसेस-टॉस)' को अग्रणी बनाने में पूरी क्षमता एवं जोश के साथ लगे रहते हैं। टॉस के विभिन्न कार्य कलापों में हम दोनों की जोड़ी 'अद्भुत' मानी जाती है। शायद आप सभी अनुभव भी करते होंगे। डॉ परोदा के साथ हम दोनों ने पहले भी कार्य किया है और अभी भी फिर से डॉ परोदा और डॉ भागमल के साथ जब कार्य करने का अवसर मिला तो मैं अपने को धन्य समझता हूँ। इन दोनों विभूतियों के साथ प्रतिदिन कुछ न कुछ सीखने को मिलता है। वे काम की प्रशंसा करने में भी आगे रहते हैं। इससे हमें बड़ा बल मिलता है। इन 40-42 वर्षों में डॉ भागमल मेरे साथ काफी सहृदय रहे हैं। हम अपने निजी कार्यक्रमों में भी एक दूसरे की सलाह लेते रहते हैं। मैं आप पर गर्व करता हूँ। मैं तो देखता रहता हूँ, क्या गजब के आदमी हैं डॉ भागमल? कितनी ऊर्जा है, कितनी स्टैमिना है इनमें कितना उत्साह है, काम में लगे रहने का? अंत में मैं कहूँगा कि डॉ भागमल जी की अस्सीवीं वर्षगाँठ में 80 एक नंबर ही तो है, एक बड़ा सा नंबर। अभी भी ये 80 वर्ष की 'यंग' आयु में कितने गतिशील हैं? जितनी सराहना की जाय, कम ही रहेगी। मैं परमात्मा से प्रार्थना करता हूँ कि वह इनमें और ऊर्जा/शक्ति भर दें, अच्छा स्वास्थ्य रखे, हँसमुख रखे और ये समाज को अपनी सेवाएं देते रहें। भागमल जी आपकी अभी उम्र ही क्या है? अभी 20-25 वर्ष तो कहीं गए नहीं हैं। आपने दुनिया को बदलते देखा है, गरीबी भी देखी है, यातनाएं भी सही होंगी, अच्छे दिन भी देखते आये हैं, लेकिन आप उन सब से ऊपर एक 'तरासे हुआ अद्भुत प्राणी' हैं। मैं आपका अच्छा प्रशंसक हूँ, शायद आपके अच्छे गुणों के कारण। भरे-पूरे परिवार के साथ आप स्वस्थ, सानंद एवं सुखी रहें, यही प्रभु से विनती रहेगी।

Congratulations to you Sir ! Thank you.



VC Pachauri

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Dr Bhag Mal: A Symphony of Friend, Guide and Much More

Please accept my compliments and best wishes on the occasion of celebration of your 80th birthday. It was long back when I came in contact with Dr Bhag Mal when he joined as Grass Breeder at the ICAR-Indian Grassland Fodder Research Institute (IGFRI), Jhansi (Uttar Pradesh) about more than four decades ago. During our long stay together in IGFRI, we used to have good interactions and discussions both in scientific and social events. Our families and children were also very close and in the latter part of Dr Bhag Mal's stay at IGFRI residential complex, our families often used to visit to each other. It reminds me an intersecting event when we organized a group tour of six families for *Bharat Darshan* for 21 days in a luxury bus. We had chosen Dr Bhag Mal as the Team Leader and he organized the tour so well that all the members travelling together remained very happy and cheerful and had never complained for any difficulties whatsoever including stay and seating arrangement in the bus during the entire journey. This became exemplary for other such tours of staff. This shows his extraordinary talent and capability for leadership, management and coordination.

Dr Bhag Mal's undying spirit and focused attention on raising the standards of research in the field of plant breeding and genetic resources will continue to inspire the fellow scientists and other professionals. The research teams who have worked under his dynamic leadership and guidance have grown up and also taken the research in their respective fields to greater heights. I am honoured to have worked in close association with him at IGFRI Jhansi, when he was the Director and I was the Head of Plant Animal Relationship Division. His democratic way of functioning and giving full authority to the Heads of Divisions and advising them for research and managerial aspects were indeed very useful. I consider the period of my association with him as the golden period when he as Director sent several scientists abroad for foreign training.

Dr Bhag Mal is a very sincere, hardworking, polite, highly dedicated, unbiased, straightforward, very helping, highly cooperative, calm and soft-spoken person and is an example which one should inculcate. I wish him a long life with peace, prosperity and good health.



VS Upadhyay

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Dr Bhag Mal – A Legend in Agriculture Science Research and Management

I wish to convey my heartiest congratulations to Dr Bhag Mal for achieving eighty years milestone of wonderful and productive life. God may bless him long life and great success in coming year.

My association with Dr Bhag Mal goes back to fifty years when he joined as Plant Breeder at the ICAR-Indian Grassland and Fodder Research Institute (IGFRI), Jhansi. Later, he joined the institute as Director and made a significant contribution towards research and development of the institute. Before retirement, I had privilege to work with him very closely in various capacities and received his valuable advice and guidance. He had been always guiding and inspiring force for me.

When he was Director, IGFRI, Jhansi, he asked me to work as Coordinator of Indo-UK Project on Grassland Research which was successfully completed under his dynamic leadership. It was a great learning experience for me how to correspond with foreign dignitaries in collaboration projects. This training helped me a lot when I got an opportunity to work as Principal Production System Scientist (Irrigated Agro-Ecosystem) under National Agriculture Technology Project (NATP) at the ICAR- Indian Institute of Maize Research (earlier Directorate of Maize Research) at ICAR-IARI Campus, New Delhi.

I had also privilege to travel with him to UK, Netherland and Canada and found how helpful he was during tours abroad. Once six Grassland institute families travelled in Bus for about a month under LTC (*Bharat Darshan*) and he was our team leader. He managed the tour so meticulously and beautifully that all members enjoyed fully and still remember his managerial capability.

Dr Bhag Mal is not only having excellent academic records, a great scientist and scientific manager but very humble in nature, loving personality and always ready to help others in time of head.

Once again, I wish him all the best for his life and professional career.



VV Sadamate

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Dr Bhag Mal ji.....My Impressions

I heard quite a lot about Dr Bhag Mal ji from Pusa's friends and contacts...as scientist, science manager, science writer, man of few words, soft spoken and above all a man of team spirit.

All came true slowly and slowly during my intensive interactions with him, now over last one year or so. It all began like this.... I heard Dr Paroda's webinar in June last year organized by International Agricultural Group, Washington on Future Agricultural Scenario. It went very well. Dr Paroda Sir in his own way, threw open quite a few futuristic ideas on innovating technology delivery services. I liked it as a student of agricultural extension over for last five decades and proposed a similar kind of event for agricultural extension to be organized by the TAAS, and the TAAS team agreed in principle. I was excited to join the efforts in organizing the same. My initial contact, thus, with Dr Bhag Mal ji was well established.

I had a series of meetings with the TAAS team to firm up the theme, the modalities of organizing the event, developing the concept note, speakers, minute to minute programme, etc. The one person noting down the actions without much of talking and providing the total back up to Dr Paroda was Dr Bhag Mal, the TAAS Secretary, the blood and vein of the organization. My correspondence and interactions grew richer and richer with Dr Bhag Mal ji as the event progressed. I saw in Bhag Mal ji good number of virtues, to name a few, sincerity, concerns for details, meticulous planning and serious tracking the follow up actions. His close association with Dr Umesh Srivastava also is exemplary. I personally was very happy to seek his support and guidance in organizing the Extension Innovation event on 8-9th of April, 2022. His concern for the quality and perfection was noteworthy. I have enjoyed working with him for over a year now and would continue to do so in future. Attending Dr Bhag Mal's 80th birthday on 1st April 2022 at the NASC Complex was a great joy. I could know various facets of his personality. Speaker after speakers praised him that included galaxies of agricultural science leaders like Dr Paroda, Drs RB Singh, AK Singh, Anupam Varma, Umesh Srivastava, JL Karihaloo and many others. Dr Bhag Mal appeared to me as a man of strong family bonds, hardworking colleague, scientist of great repute, man ready to take the responsibilities and fulfilling the same with humane approach towards one and all and endowed with God given humility.



I wonder on his capacity to take the challenge of running the organization at the young age of 80, the real blessed one, to be relevant to the family and profession at this age. For last year or so, I found in him a good scientist's friend and overwhelmed by his dedication to the science and technology. References to his overseas assignments were equally loud and clear on his contribution to agricultural sciences far and wide.

Wish you many more years of sound health and wish your contribution to Farm science and technology would grow further. Remain cheerful and young as always.... you have beaten 80 with cheers of 18. Also, enjoyed your "Cut Fruit Lunch" followed by hot Coffee at the TAAS number of times. Keep it up.



V Vijayalakshmi

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Dr Bhag Mal: My Guru, My Guide

Dr Bhag Mal is a person par excellence, words fall short to describe his personality. My official experience with Sir is for about ten years which continued till date to personal level. I have worked under him as PA to Project Coordinator (Underutilized Crops) at the ICAR-National Bureau of Plant Genetic Resources (NBPGR), New Delhi. I clearly remember his keen interest in research and mentoring junior scientists with great fervour.

Dr Bhag Mal used to value inputs from each one of us, including me even though I was an administrative staff. His ever-smiling and calm demeanour gave us the strength to go beyond our horizons to think, apply and produce good quality work. So soft spoken and an exemplary leader who helped us to deal with situations in the office and off the office.

The high qualities I learnt from him are priceless and are applicable forever and always.



Vandana Joshi

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Dr Bhag Mal: A Scientist Saint

I had the privilege and honour of working with Dr Bhag Mal in the ICAR-National Bureau of Plant Genetic Resources, New Delhi, during the early nineties. I found him to be a man, blessed with a very high IQ and with an equally strong EQ. This made him stand tall as an advisor, motivator, and a boss, who knew how to extract maximum work from his subordinates in a healthy and congenial environment.

He is a great visionary and had a clear Road Map in place for the success of the All India Coordinated Research Project (AICRP) on Underutilized Plants (UUP) project and happened to be associated with him as a Scientist. His passion and enthusiasm for augmentation of plant genetic resources of underutilized plants, not only inspired me but also had a great motivating effect on other scientists working on UUP in India.

When I look back on my professional career, I find myself fortunate enough for having worked under the able guidance of Dr Bhag Mal, during my formative years which helped me to a great extent in shaping my professional career.

I feel delighted to know that the TAAS is bringing out a publication to commemorate the 80th birthday of Dr Bhag Mal. I genuinely feel that it is one of the best ways to pay our respect and gratitude to Dr Bhag Mal, a great human being, who has an immense contribution to our nation in the field of agricultural research.

May God give him a long happy and healthy life.

Vijay Sethi

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Dr Bhag Mal: An Inspiration to Younger Generation

This is the occasion to celebrate 80th birthday of a hard working and devoted man who I have known for the past 20 years in my life. The professional journey of Dr Bhag Mal is as remarkable as his journey of life. It is rewarding to be associated with him and seek his teachings. He does not shackle himself to his age and works endlessly for the benefit of others and for the community. His contribution is immense in the field of agriculture and inspires the youngsters to write their own story of hard work. His actions speak more than his words and benevolence is his second nature.

He has a long and close association with Dr RS Paroda, a pioneer in his field whom I know personally since he was the Head of Plant Breeding Department in CCS HAU, Hisar where my father also served as Estate Officer and Dean, Students' Welfare (DSW). Dr Paroda's daughter was my classmate in the Campus School.

Dr Paroda holds Dr Bhag Mal in high esteem. I hope that he continues giving his best and excelling in his field of agricultural research innovation and development.

A small token of regards



Bhagmal@80

Eightieth Birthday Celebration of Dr Bhag Mal

Vishwash Chandra Sinha

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Dr Bhag Mal as I Know

Dr Bhag Mal jee is a well-known plant breeder of repute. I heard about him when he was Head of Plant Improvement Division of ICAR-Indian Grassland and Fodder Research Institute (IGFRI), Jhansi. He has a brilliant academic career and in the Council's service, he held several important positions at the ICAR-National Bureau of Plant Genetic Resources (NBPGR), ADG (Seed), and while at ICAR-NBPGR holding the charge of PIU of Indo-US Project. He was also a Senior Consultant at the APAARI and also served as South Asia Coordinator of Bioversity International (earlier IPGRI). He published good number of research papers in the National and International journals.

I knew him closely after he became member of Pusa Association of Retired Agricultural Scientists (PARAS) and where currently he is the President of the Association. He is a soft-spoken scientist and possesses good quality of leadership. He is well known to the scientists of the ICAR-IARI, and sister organizations of ICAR located in Delhi NCR region. He has quality of leadership to help solve the problems of the retired scientists.

As a PARAS member, I convey my best wishes to him when 'TAAS' is celebrating his 80th birthday by bringing out a souvenir in his honor taking impression about him from his well-wishers and friends.

I wish him long active healthy life in the years ahead.



Wais Kabir

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Dr Bhag Mal- My Appreciation for His Contributions

It is my pleasure to express my reflection of accomplishment of Dr Bhag Mal in the development of science and technology in India and beyond. I have my pleasure to meet him and interact with him in different regional and international consultation events in Dhaka and elsewhere. He has been recognized as an outstanding researcher in India and recipient of number honors at home and abroad. He led large number scientific bodies relevant to agriculture and natural resources management. Being a known crop breeder, he successfully acquired recognition in regional upstream research network in the Asia and Pacific region.

Pioneered in plant genetic resources, Dr Bhag Mal has greatly contributed in the development of breeding tools and techniques in development crop sciences. This made him known to the region which has been reflected in receiving national awards and recognitions as well as occupying leading roles in policy making platforms in and around the region. His capable leadership made him to lead international positions including Biodiversity International based in Rome, Italy.

I know Dr Bhag Mal personally and found him a very excellent receiver of ideas and thoughts relevant to many aspects of agriculture development in the region. He maintains very good network with experts around the world in agricultural science and technology. I found him a very cordial and passionate in leading team of experts in diversified areas.

I always enjoy his association in different events and wish his further journey ahead for the development of agriculture-based livelihood in the region.



Yashpal Saharawat

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Dr Bhag Mal: A Guide of Sincerity and Dedication and Scientist Par Excellence

It is matter of great honour and pleasure for me to pen down memories of my association with respected Dr Bhag Mal on the occasion of his 80th birthday. He is one of the youngest 80-year-old, I know- an inspiring and mesmerizing personality and guide to the young researchers for dedication and sincerity. I recall seeing him at the NASC Complex as South Asia Coordinator of IPGRI (now Bioversity International) in March 2005, the very first day, I started my professional career as a young researcher with International Rice Research Institute (IRRI). I came in close contact with him around one and half decade ago at the Trust for Advancement of Agricultural Sciences (TAAS) with Honourable Padma Bhushan Dr RS Paroda. On the very first day, I was inspired by his humble nature but with a great scientific zeal along with dedication, motivation, and full of energy. I was fortunate to work with him in ICAR-Indian Grassland and Fodder Research Institute (IGFRI), Jhansi, where Dr Bhag Mal has served as a Director. I was so mesmerized to see that dynamism of Dr Bhag Mal has brought the institute to new heights and the staff was so appreciative of his modest nature and high scientific thinking.



APAARI sponsored National Workshop on Foresight and Future Pathways of Agricultural Research through Youth



Over past more than a decade, I have been fortunate to work with him for organizing several international and national programs organized by Asia-Pacific Association of Agricultural Research Institutions (APAARI) and the Trust for Advancement of Agricultural Sciences (TAAS) in association with ICAR, CGIAR, Governments, private sector, farmers, and other organizations. Recalling association with Dr Bhag Mal would be incomplete without mentioning our joint workshops on “Motivating and Attracting Youth in Agriculture” under the guidance of visionary leader Dr RS Paroda. The first youth workshop “Foresight and Future Pathways of Agricultural Research through Youth” jointly conducted by the ICAR, APAARI and TAAS in March 2013, was the first in-hand learning experience for me about his patience, continuous follow up and timely delivery. I would like to thank him for guiding me through that process of conducting national and international level workshops and seminars.

I am blessed to work with on day-to-day basis at the TAAS office and get his guidance. Now also he works with a zeal of young researcher, which is an inspiration for all the youth in agricultural fraternity. My family joins me in praying the Almighty for his healthy, happy and long life.



MESSAGES FROM FAMILY AND RELATIVES



Late Shri Ram Kishan ji (father) and late Smt. Mono Devi (mother)



Dr Bhag Mal with his wife Mrs Satyawati



Dr Bhag Mal with his son and grandsons

Anand Prakash

(Youngest Brother)

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Happy 80th Birthday to My Eldest Brother Dr Bhag Mal

Dr Bhag Mal is the eldest of four siblings (3 brothers and 1 sister) and I am the youngest. I remember, being the eldest, he always loved us and has taken care of us in our childhood. He used to make us understand and feel the value of education in making progress in life. I remember that up to his 8th standard, he was at maternal uncle's place and we were deprived of his guidance but after 9th standard onwards, he used to come to village on a weekly basis and used to monitor about our studies. When I was studying in BSc in Baraut and he was working as Postgraduate Lecturer in JV College, Baraut, he did not allow me to commute from village to college and forced me to stay with him and Bhabhi ji where I had all the comforts and could pay full attention on my studies.

I remember that I was finding it difficult to get admission in B.Ed. which was essential to get the regular job of teacher. At that time, Dr Bhag Mal was posted as Plant Breeder at the ICAR-IGFRI, Jhansi and I told him about this problem. Since he was keen for my regular job, he contacted the authorities of the College in Jhansi with the help of his IGFRI colleagues and arranged my admission in B.Ed. I then stayed with him and Bhabhi ji and completed my B.Ed. which was a turning point in my career. This helped me immensely in getting a regular job as a lecturer in the Adarsh Inter College, Daula, Dist. Baghpat, near our village and subsequently I was appointed as the Principal of that College and remained there until retirement.

Dr Bhag Mal is highly respected in the village also and whenever he happens to visit the village to attend family functions and rituals, he is surrounded by many people asking for his progress and well-being. He is also very popular among the relatives and friends due to his polite nature and good behavior. He is very sincere, hard- working, well disciplined, simple and down to earth person.

I sincerely wish him a happy, healthy and long life.



Bhagmal@80

Eightieth Birthday Celebration of Dr Bhag Mal

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भईया को जन्मदिन की शुभकामनाएं।

सौभाग्य से मैं तीन भाईयो की इकलौती और लाड़ली बहन हूँ। डॉ. भागमल हम सभी बहन-भाईयों में सबसे बड़े हैं। वे बचपन से ही पढ़ने-लिखने में काफी रुचि रखते हैं।

वे एक मेधावी छात्र रहे हैं जिनकी प्रारम्भिक शिक्षा उनके ननीहाल तितरोदे में हुई। जहाँ वे पढ़ाई के साथ –साथ अपने नाना जी के खेती बाड़ी के कार्य में भी हाथ बटाते थे। बचपन से ही बहुत मेहनती हैं। स्वभाव से बड़े ही शांत हैं। अपने बड़ों का सम्मान करना और बच्चों से स्नेहपूर्वक मिलना उनकी खासियत है। बचपन से ही मेरी छोटी से छोटी आवश्यकता और इच्छा को मेरे बिना व्यक्त किए समझते और पूरा करते थे, बिलकुल एक सच्चे मित्र की भाँति। किशोरवस्था की कुछ यादें आज भी ताजा हैं। जब मैं शादी के बाद अपने मायके में थी और मेरे पति श्री वेदपाल राणा जी पढ़ाई के लिए ग्वालियर में थे। उस दौरान संपर्क साधने का एकमात्र साधन पत्र व्यवहार होता था। उस समय मेरे बिना कहे वे मुझे डाकघर से पोस्ट कार्ड लाकर देते और फिर मेरे पत्र पोस्ट कर आते थे। भईया और राणा जी का संबंध भी मित्रता वाला था और वह जहाँ भी जाते थे अक्सर दोनो साथ ही जाते थे। अब उन्हें उनकी कमी बहुत ज्यादा खलती है।

वे बड़े ही भावुक व्यक्ति हैं। इसका एक बड़ा उदाहरण मेरे द्वारा रक्षाबंधन पर पहनाई हुई राखी है जिसे वे पूरा वर्ष अपने पास सहेज कर रखते हैं। जो अगले वर्ष (रक्षाबंधन) तक मेरे प्रति उनके स्नेह का साक्षी बन नजर आती है। जिसे कई वर्षों से मैं निरंतर अनुभव करती आ रही हूँ। वे अपने उत्तरदायित्वों को भली भाँति समझते हैं और उन्हें सहृदय पूरा भी करते हैं।

एक छायादार वृक्ष की भाँति मेरे जीवन की कड़ी धूप में मेरे साथ रहे हैं। अपनी मेहनत और लगन के बल पर उच्च पद पर आसीन होते हुए भी जमीन से जुड़े हुए व्यक्ति हैं। अपने पद और प्रतिष्ठा का कभी अभिमान नहीं करते। सभी को अपनी मधुर वाणी और व्यवहार से अपना कायल बना लेने वाला उनका व्यक्तित्व उन्हें और अधिक सम्मान का पात्र बनाता है।

मेरी तो हृदय से परमपिता परमेश्वर से यही प्रार्थना है कि ईश्वर उन्हें उत्तम स्वास्थ्य, शांति पूर्ण जीवन और दीर्घ आयु प्रदान करे।

धन्यवाद!



Bhoopal Singh

(Brother-in-Law)

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डॉ. भागमल – एक मार्गदर्शक, एक प्रेरणा स्रोत

परम श्रद्धेय डा. भागमल जी का जन्म गाँव 'टटीरी' जिला बागपत (उत्तर प्रदेश) में एक किसान परिवार में हुआ। उनकी प्रारम्भिक शिक्षा अन्य ग्रामीण बच्चों की तरह दूर दराज के ग्रामीण परिवेश में हुई। अपनी बुद्धि व प्रतिभा के बल पर सभी परीक्षाओं में शानदार प्रदर्शन करते हुए वे अनेकों साथियों को पीछे छोड़ते हुए तीव्र गति से आगे बढ़े। जनता वैदिक कालेज बड़ौत से एमएससी करने के उपरान्त उसी कालेज में प्रोफेसर रहे। इस मुकाम को प्राप्त करना उस समय सुगम नहीं था। अतः राजपूत समाज में जिसमें उनका जन्म हुआ था, उसमें उनकी ख्याति फैल गई और उनका नाम ही उनके परिचय के लिये पर्याप्त था।

भारतीय कृषि अनुसंधान संस्थान में चयन होने के पश्चात वे निरन्तर उन्नति की सीढ़ियां चढ़ते गये और अनेक उच्च पदों को सुशोभित करते हुए एक प्रकाश स्तम्भ की तरह सभी के पथ प्रदर्शक व प्रेरणा स्रोत बन गये। डायरेक्टर, भारतीय चरागाह एवं चारा अनुसंधान संस्थान, झाँसी; दक्षिण एशिया, बायोवर्सिटी इन्टरनेशनल के कोर्डिनेटर आदि उच्च पदों पर कार्य करते हुए, विश्व के अनेक देशों में भारत सरकार के प्रतिनिधि के रूप में कार्यरत रहे तथा भारतीय कृषि के अनुसन्धान क्षेत्र में अपना अमूल्य योगदान देते रहे।

अपने कार्य के प्रति पूर्ण समर्पण की भावना रखते हुए भी, अपने व्यस्त समय में से अपने परिवार, सम्बन्धियों व मित्रों के लिये समय निकालना और सदैव उनके सुख दुख में भागीदार होना उनके हृदय की विशालता तथा सत्प्रवृत्तियों का परिचायक है। आवश्यकता पड़ने पर वे सदैव सबकी सहायता के लिए तत्पर रहते हैं। सफलता के उच्चतम शिखर पर पहुंचने पर भी किसी प्रकार का अहंकार उन्हें छू तक नहीं गया है।

1972 में मेरी छोटी बहन की शादी उनके छोटे भाई आनन्द प्रकाश जी से हुई। तबसे उनके साथ सम्बन्ध दृढ से दृढतर होता गया। यद्यपि भारत तथा विश्व में वे एक महान वैज्ञानिक, अनुशासन प्रिय, अनुपम कार्यशैली वाले विशेष निर्णय क्षमता वाले प्रशासक के रूप में जाने जाते हैं। परन्तु उन सब से भी अलग मेरा उन पर एक अधिकार है। वह है— मेरे प्रिय जीजा जी।

राजपूत समाज की समस्याओं पर विचार करने तथा समाज की प्रगति के लिये, समाज के कुछ प्रबुद्ध कार्यकर्ताओं ने मिलकर राजपूत एकता समिति की स्थापना की जो 2006 में रजिस्टर्ड कराई गई। अपने



आठवें स्थापना दिवस पर 25 दिसम्बर 2014 को राजपूत समाज की महान विभूतियों में से मुख्य अतिथि के लिये डा. भागमल जी से प्रार्थना की गई। उन्होंने इसे सहर्ष स्वीकार कर सबको कृतार्थ किया। जैसे ही सभागार में उनके जीवन, कार्यों तथा उपलब्धियों को बताया गया, सारा सभागार तालियों की गड़गड़ाहट से गूंज उठा। बच्चों से लेकर बड़ों तक सभी ने उनसे प्रेरणा प्राप्त की। समिति के लिये उन्होंने आर्थिक योगदान भी दिया।

2014 के बाद भी प्रत्येक वर्ष समिति के स्थापना दिवस पर उनका आर्थिक योगदान जारी रहा। उन्हीं के बताने पर अन्य विभूतियाँ डा. भंवर सिंह राणा व डा. नरेन्द्र सिंह राठौर आगे के लिये मुख्य अतिथि प्राप्त हुए।

सेवानिवृत्ति के बाद भी डा. भागमल जी लगातार देश और समाज के लिये अपना अमूल्य योगदान दे रहे हैं। उनके 80वें जन्मदिवस पर राजपूत एकता समिति एवं मेरी ओर से ढेरों बधाइयाँ। प्रभु से उनके स्वस्थ जीवन एवं दीर्घायु की प्रार्थना करते हैं ताकि देश और समाज उनके बहुआयामी व्यक्तित्व से प्रेरणा ग्रहण कर लाभान्वित होता रहे।



Harish Kumar Chauhan

(Brother-in-Law)

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Heartiest Congratulations to My Brother-in-Law, Dr Bhag Mal on His 80th Birthday

I am extremely grateful for the opportunity given to express my views and impressions about him. Dr Bhag Mal has been like a father figure to me, literally and figuratively. Even though there is big age difference between us, I have never missed the friend in him. He is always smiling, calm and brings lots of stable energy around those who are in his company. When my eldest sister got married to him, I was merely a kid of 8 years. From the day one of the marriage of my sister, I had a close bond with him due to his immense love and affection. He used to visit often to our place and with his charming personality, he used to treat everyone with the utmost respect and love. He had special concern about the higher education of children and often guided us in this regard. The best thing about Dr Bhag Mal is that he is very soft spoken yet profound in dealing with everyone around him, be his relatives, friends, family members or unknown persons. I particularly remember that whenever there were some incidents of minor disputes in the family, Dr Bhag Mal's keen concern, sense of responsibility, and the way of handling the problem with empathetic disposition was always handy for which he was respected and loved by all.

He has been a strong link between the relatives and does not hesitate to step into any kind of problems that arise. He is very calm and we have never seen him angry under any situation. He makes sure that everything around him achieves a peaceful state and his aura is indeed inspiring. The way he balances his professional and personal life, sparing time out for relatives, friends and the society is indeed excellent. I always learnt a lot about the hard realities of life whenever I happened to spend time with him.

I wish him all the best for everything in life, and pray the Almighty to bestow on him the abundance of vigour, vitality, happiness, peace and good health for many more years.



Bhagmal@80

Eightieth Birthday Celebration of Dr Bhag Mal

Jankesh Chauhan

S/o Late Shri Nahar Singh Chauhan

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80वें जन्मदिन की हार्दिक शुभकामनाएं

मैं डॉ. भागमल मौसा जी को करीबन 30 साल से जानता हूँ। मेरी बड़ी बहन की शादी उनके बेटे से 1992 में हुई थी। तभी से मैं उनकी जीवन-शैली से बहुत ही प्रभावित हूँ। वे कर्तव्यनिष्ठ, कार्यकुशल, कर्मठ, सहज स्वभाव व्यक्ति के धनी हैं। उनके व्यवहार का व्याख्यान जितना किया जाए वह संक्षेप ही है। उनका सभी से सदैव शांत चित और मित्रतापूर्ण व्यवहार रहता है। यही कारण है कि उनसे जब भी मिलते हैं तो हमें उनसे बातें करना बहुत अच्छा लगता है। वे विषम परिस्थितियों में भी विचलित न होने वाले व्यक्ति हैं।

हमारे पिताजी स्वर्गीय श्री नाहर सिंह चौहान जी का उनसे विशेष लगाव था क्योंकि वह उनके साथ समझी की तरह नहीं, अपितु मित्र की तरह व्यवहार करते थे।

एक बार जब वह भारतीय चरागाह एवं चारा अनुसंधान संस्थान, झांसी में निदेशक थे, तब हमारे पिताजी और मौसा जी के परम मित्र स्वर्गीय श्री निवास जी उनके पास घूमने गए थे। वहाँ जाकर उन्हें झांसी का किला, पहज बाँध और बरुवा सागर जैसे रमणीक स्थलों को देखने का अवसर मिला। वहाँ उनकी कार्य शैली और मेहमान नवाजी को देखकर हमारे पिताजी इतने प्रभावित हुए कि वहाँ से आने के बाद हमारे घर में बहुत दिनों तक “झांसी की कहानी” ही चर्चा का विषय बनी हुई थी।

ऐसे उत्तम गुणों से परिपूर्ण व्यक्ति का सानिध्य पाना और उनका आशीर्वाद पाना हम सबके लिए सौभाग्य की बात है। यह कहना भी अतिशयोक्ति न होगी कि हमें प्रभु से प्रसाद मिल रहा है।

उन्होंने अनेक बार उचित मार्ग दर्शक बनकर हमें प्रबलता प्रदान की है। ८० वर्ष की आयु में भी उनकी कार्यक्षमता, शांत, सौम्य व धनिष्ठ व्यवहार सदैव ही हमारे लिए शिक्षा का स्रोत रहा है। उनकी वर्षगांठ पर कुछ शब्द हृदय से उद्घृत करना चाहते जो इस प्रकार हैं:-

आप कर्तव्यपरायण हैं, आप कार्यरूपेण हैं।

आप मित्रत्व भाव में, शिक्षक रूपेण हैं।

आप सुहृदयी, संधिप्रिय, सुभाषी सदैव हैं।

आपकी अद्भुत कार्यशैली, सदैव अनुकरणीय है।

सादर प्रणाम एवं चरण स्पर्श।



Kailash Singh

(Cousin)

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Dr Bhag Mal: An Eminent Personality Among Our Relatives

First of all, I wish Dr Bhag Mal a very happy 80th Birthday. Dr Bhag Mal is an eminent personality among our relatives. He is my elder maternal cousin, about 11 years elder to me. I know him from my childhood when he used to visit my village Yahiyapur in Muzaffarnagar district of Uttar Pradesh to meet his Bua ji (my mother), Fufa ji (my father) and all of us in the family.

Actually, my elder brother late Dr BD Rana and Dr Bhag Mal were very close to each other as besides being cousins, they were classmates also and did their post graduation from Janta Vedic College, Baraut, District Baghpat (Uttar Pradesh). Later in service, they both were serving as scientists at the ICAR-Central Arid Zone Research Institute (CAZRI), Jodhpur (Rajasthan) and came closer. In fact, Dr Bhag Mal inspired my elder brother late Dr BD Rana to join ICAR service at CAZRI, Jodhpur.

I have never been so proud to be related to someone as to him. He is truly a special person and above all a fighter. He always had been and always will be treated as the parental figure of everyone not only in his family but also in the family of close relatives.



Dr Bhag Mal with his relatives



Bhagmal@80

Eightieth Birthday Celebration of Dr Bhag Mal



Dr Bhag Mal with my elder brother late Dr BD Rana in a marriage function of my son

His endless wisdom and great intellect will continue to guide us through the darkest path to the light. Even if he is getting older on the exterior, on the inside, he is still as young as ever. He is always there to help everyone that needed him. Turning 80 and thinking about what tattoo to get, I think the best idea is his name and address.

On professional side, Dr Bhag Mal is an eminent agricultural scientist. As I know from my early age, his area of work in agriculture field is plant breeding. He had been member of various high-level committees at the national and international level. He has to his credit more than 150 research papers and receipt of awards and honours like 'Dr Harbhajan Singh Memorial Award' for the excellent service relating to plant genetic resources

Apart from this he held several important positions, namely, Interim Executive Secretary, APAARI, Bangkok, South Asia Coordinator, Bioversity International, New Delhi/ Rome, Director, ICAR-IGFRI, Jhansi. Currently, he is the Trustee and Secretary, Trust for Advancement of Agricultural Sciences (TAAS).

I wish you all the best for longevity of your, remaining life and every day ahead of you, continue to this planet.

Kusum Singh

(Daughter-in-Law)

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Heartiest Gratitude to Papa Ji

Our respected Papa ji has completed his 80th birthday on 1st July, 2022. I am extremely excited that I am having an opportunity to convey my feelings and expressions about my father like father-in law.

I always found my father-in-law very loving, caring, polite, humble and many such beautiful words will fall short in describing his intellectual persona and divine aura. It has been more than 29 years of my marriage; I never ever felt that he is my father-in-law. Sometimes I feel annoyed with the Almighty that why he was not kind enough to make my destiny to be his biological daughter. His aura and personality have given me huge recognition amongst my relatives, friends, and society for which I feel very proud of him. I have lots and lots of emotions attached with him which can't be expressed in words. I also pray God that he should be my father in all my births. I wish him good health, prosperity, happiness and long life.

His nature is very calm, peaceful, cheerful and having lots of patience. He is extremely helpful for all friends and family members. We had seen him always busy in his work as worship. He is extremely courteous, polite and down to earth person. These are rare qualities which we all cherish.

Both my sons Mrigank and Devansh are all praise for their grandfather who is a great inspiration for them. He is very friendly with the loving grandsons and always guides them in the right direction and towards the path of being a good human being and to attain success in life through hard work. They often talk about his hard-working nature even at the golden age of 80 with the same enthusiasm as in yester years and found his journey blissful, remarkable and inspiring. His wise words of wisdom and advice will always be remembered and cherished by them throughout their life, they say.

I wish him good health, prosperity, happiness and long life and pray God that he will continue showering his blessings on all of us as ever.



Bhagmal@80

Eightieth Birthday Celebration of Dr Bhag Mal

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विलक्षण व्यक्तित्व के धनी: डॉ. भागमल जी

कर्तव्य पथ पर अग्रसर पथिक को विश्राम कहाँ? निरंतर चलते रहना उसकी नियति है। जीवन की चरम लय की प्राप्ति तक तिल-तिल जलना ही पड़ता है, तभी उसकी सार्थकता सिद्ध होती है। ऐसी ही सार्थकता जिला बागपत के गांव 'टटीरी' में मेहनतकश – कृषक परिवार में 1 अप्रैल, 1942 में जन्मे 'डॉ. भागमल' जी कर रहे हैं। डॉ. भागमल जी न केवल व्यवहार कुशल है अपितु सामाजिक गतिविधियों में व्यक्ति किस तरह जान भर देता है, यह किसी को जानना है तो आपसे जाने। वैसे तो डॉ. भागमल वर्तमान में ट्रस्ट फॉर एडवांसमेंट ऑफ एग्रिकल्चरल साइंसेस (टॉस) में ट्रस्टी हैं तथा उसके सचिव भी हैं परन्तु पूर्व में अपारी (एशिया पैसिफिक एसोसिएशन ऑफ एग्रिकल्चरल रिसर्च इंस्टीट्यूशन्स) में कार्यकारी सचिव तथा वरिष्ठ सलाहकार भी रहे हैं। लेकिन जिस तरह से निरंतर वे अपनी कर्मठता, सक्रियता और लेकिन जिस तरह से निरंतर वे अपनी कर्मठता, सक्रियता और सजगता से सामाजिक कार्यों में पहचान बना रहे हैं, उसकी जितनी तारीफ की जाए वह कम है।

निदा फाजली जी का एक शेर है—

'हर आदमी में होते हैं दस-बीस आदमी,
जिसको भी देख रहे हो उसे कई बार देखना।'

यह शेर डॉ. भागमल जी के जीवन पर पूर्णतः चरितार्थ होता है। आज भी मुझे वह 1992 की रात याद है जब मेरी उनसे पहली मुलाकात हुई थी। पहली ही मुलाकात में मैं उनके व्यक्तित्व का कायल हो गया था। उनके व्यक्तित्व में शिक्षा, ज्ञान और सेवा की त्रिमूर्ति का वास है। शायद इसी कारण जब मैंने उनसे अपने गांव में लड़कियों की शिक्षा की दशा पर बात की तो उन्होंने कहा की यह समाज के लिए बहुत जरूरी है की ग्रामीण लड़कियों को शिक्षा दी जाए। उनसे बात करके मैं राम नोबल बद्धा और हमने टाना की फजलपुर बागपत में केवल लड़कियों के लिए एक स्कूल खोला जाए और हमने एक ट्रस्ट बनाया। इस ट्रस्ट के न केवल निर्माण अपितु उसको आगे बढ़ाने के लिए आज तक निरंतर डॉ. भागमल जी तन-मन और धन, से सहयोग कर रहे हैं। पूसा संस्थान में वैज्ञानिक होने के बावजूद अपने व्यस्ततम समय में से समय निकालकर हमारे आग्रह पर नवंबर 2010 से नवंबर 2015 तक शांति देवी कन्या इंटर कालेज, फजलपुर, बागपत के चेयरमैन के दायित्व का निर्वाह किया। इस बीच वे निरंतर स्कूल में जाते रहे और कैसे उस इंटर कालेज की लड़कियों का सर्वांगीण विकास हो इसके बारे में सोचते रहे।



‘सादा जीवन उच्च विचार’ को अपने जीवन-शैली में चरितार्थ करने वाले ‘भागमल जी’ जैसा व्यक्तित्व समाज के लिए एक वरदान ही है। उनके मनमोही व्यक्तित्व की खासियत है मुस्कुराता चेहरा, प्रसन्न व्यक्तित्व, सामने वाले को समझ लेने का कौशल और आवश्यक हो तो मदद करने की प्रवृत्ति। एक काम से दूसरे काम में, एक प्रकल्प से दूसरे प्रकल्प में और एक कार्यक्रम से दूसरे कार्यक्रम में आते-जाते वे थकते नहीं हैं, युवाओं जैसी उर्जा सदैव उनके चेहरे पर विद्यमान रहती है। उनके व्यक्तित्व के अनेक गुण हैं। छोटे में छोटा और बड़े में बड़ा होना उन्हें आता है। लोगों के बीच रहना उनका स्वभाव है। भीड़ में वे रम जाते चाहे फिर वे पारिवारिक लोग हो या मित्र-मंडली हो। उनका सहज सीधा-सादा प्रसन्न स्वभाव से ऐसा हो पाता है। उनकी व्यक्तित्व-शैली अप्रतिम है। ‘डॉ. भागमलजी’ जैसे व्यक्ति की और तटस्थता से देखना संभव नहीं है। स्मृतियों की गठरी से यादों की लड़ियां धीरे-धीरे बाहर निकल आती हैं। मन के एक कोने में घर कर बैठी उनकी यादें मौका मिलते ही उफन उठती हैं। मेरे जैसे के जीवन में उनके अस्तित्व की अनुभूति कराती हैं।

मराठी संत तुकाराम का एक कथन है—

‘सर्व सिद्धीचे हे कारण! मन करा रे प्रसन्न’।

(मन को प्रसन्न रखना ही सारी उपलब्धियों का मूल है।)

डॉ. भागमल जी के जीवन की उपलब्धियों का मूल कारण उनका प्रसन्न व्यक्तित्व का है। उनके सम्पर्क में आने वाले हर व्यक्ति को प्रसन्न रखने और इससे समाज के प्रत्येक क्षेत्र में प्रसन्नता निर्माण करने का वे प्रयास करते हैं। उनके जीवन-कार्य से अनुभव होता है कि हमें प्राप्त मानव जीवन किस तरह सफल बनाया जाए। अपने कर्तृत्व से अपने जीवन और इस जन्म को यशस्वी बनाने वाले में ‘भागमल’ जी के बारे में, उनके व्यक्तित्व के बारे में मेरे जैसे सामान्य व्यक्ति द्वारा अधिक लिखना आकाश के तारे गिनने जैसा है। बड़े लोग वाकई अपने ज्ञान और कर्म से बड़े होते हैं। भागमल जी के उत्तुंग व्यक्तित्व को प्रणाम! और भगवान से कामना की वे दीर्घायु हों सपरिवार स्वस्थ रहते हुए जीवन में आगे बढ़ते रहें।



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Dr Bhag Mal: A Key Role Model in Shaping My Career

Certain people in our lives have special ability to inspire. They generously guide and motivate and brace to take right decision in personal as well professional life. They influence us by the way they faced challenges, and grew up well in odd situations. Though, there are many people inspired me in life, my cousin brother Dr Bhag Mal has always been a role model for me, for my family and for my extended family also. He set an example for the forthcoming generation too to become a successful man in professional, social and personal life.

Since my childhood, I know my brother who has always been very close to my father (maternal uncle of Dr Bhag Mal), has always encouraged my father to provide best education to us. My father keeps telling me the challenge that Dr Bhag Mal faced during his early childhood times and how he has overcome these challenges. I was thrilled to hear his life story that he was born and brought up in a village and in a joint farming family has no predisposition to educate their children due to scarcity of money and resources. In spite of this, he preferred to stay in the town, and lived independently so as to concentrate on his education. On week days, he used to walk 10-12 km to come to village due to lack of road connectivity. Dr Bhag Mal is also a role model in the lives of most people who have the privilege of knowing his careers cycle. The reasons why I value my brother are his confidence, hard work, and his benevolence. He had always been very caring for himself and for his parents and other family members. He faced such adverse and hard times that many would have quit the situation hopelessly. One more thing I respect my brother for his strong determination to work hard and still at the age of 80 years he is actively engaged and contributing significant towards the growth of agriculture being a Trustee and the Secretary of the Trust for Advancement of Agriculture under the dynamic leadership of Dr RS Paroda, Chairman, TAAS.

He played a key role in shaping my career because he kept on counselling me to write exam for professional degree in GBPA&T, Pantnagar. Being associated with ICAR and CGIAR system, he visited my hostel during my stay in Pantnagar and Ranichauri, the Hill Campus of Pantnagar University. His son Sanjeev and me entered the Pantnagar University the same year and whenever Dr Bhag Mal used to come to the campus to meet Sanjeev, he always came to my room also and provided moral support to do best in my education. He always inspired me to work hard for better future and treated me like his own son so that I never felt left out. This is



not common with most people. However, he truly cares for and appreciates me as his younger cousin. He has moulded my life by showing me the three most important things in life, which are optimism, hard work and kindness. Dr Bhag Mal bhai sahab is a true inspiration in my life. He has shown me that having the right attitude and values you can influence the people around you. However, I can only try and aspire to be like him. At professionally, I spent very less time with him but get in touch with him on all family functions and rituals. I interact with him whenever I get the chance and learn something new from him every time. Undoubtedly, he was and will remain the role model for me and everyone who knows him personally, socially and professionally.

My heartiest congratulations to him on his 80th birthday and I wish him a long, peaceful and healthy life and all the best in his future endeavours.



Pawan Kumar

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My Sincere Gratitude to Dr Bhag Mal Papa ji on His 80th Birthday

I came in contact with Dr Bhag Mal ji when I got married with his younger daughter Sangeeta. Now it has been more than 25 years of my married life. During all these years, I always found that all the members in his family are very nice but he himself is an extraordinary personality I have ever seen. He values very much the relations with his colleagues, friends and relatives and always tries to maintain the intimate bond with all of them. He often pays visits to us to know about our wellbeing and specially to console my father who is bed-ridden for more than a decade. He sits with him for hours and chats with him on various issues especially his health, medication and the precautions and above all to encourage him to fight with the situation with courage, confidence and strong will power. I found him very affectionate with my children who are also very friendly with him, He is so popular in our family and relations that everyone has especial attachment and even my younger sister in Sydney, Australia keeps on enquiring about the well-being of Dr Bhag Mal and his family and pays visit to their place whenever she comes to India.

I have observed him attending all functions, rituals and social events even if he is very busy in his official engagements. If there are moments of some difference of opinion in the families of relatives, he is the person who takes lead to sort out the issues amicably because he is a very mature and balanced person and has the capability of convincing people having diverse views. He is very calm, humble, well behaved, generous, very helpful, down to earth person and never loses. He in fact is a role model for many around him his temper. I am sure and confident enough in saying that it is very tough and rare to find a personality and gem like Dr Bhag Mal Papa ji.

I pray to God for his long, healthy and peaceful life so that he continues to shower his blessings on us.



Sanjeev Singh

(Son)

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My Father: A Philosopher, A Scientist, An intellectual, A Critic, and A Thinker

“One father is more than a thousand schoolmasters.”

- George Herbert

Thank you, Papa ji – for everything you have done for me that shaped me and made me who I am. No words of mine can tell you, the things I really feel. As your son, the view from atop your shoulders was the best I’ve ever had. I see more, know more and can do more because of you.

I know you to be warm-hearted and caring, loving, and nurturing. I know you to be soft and thoughtful. I know you to be a philosopher of sorts, a scientist, an intellectual, a critic, and a thinker of deep thoughts. I know you to be humble with lots of patience, and a holder of sacred thoughts. I know you to be all of these things and more. Your love and guidance have been and will always be my most cherished gifts in this lifetime. This not only makes me proud to be your son but also makes me cherish all the gifts life has bestowed upon me.

One of the most important lessons I learned from you was the value of keeping your word. Honesty has always been one of the most important virtues to you. You taught me the importance of keeping your word and fulfilling the promises you make to others. Because of you, I have been careful about who I give my word to. Thus, I am now known as a man of integrity. During the past 53 years of my life with you, I don’t remember any instance when you ever scolded me.

Thank you for cheering me always in my pursuits, whether in sports, academics, or at times when I was in doldrums in my career. I really admire you the way you supported me during my hard times when I suffered with home sickness issues. You never pushed me towards a path you chose and, instead, guided me towards the one that you believe is the best for me. There is no possible way I could pay you back for all that you have done for me growing up. I would not be who I am today without your guidance and love.

You showed me that when something has to be done, you should do your share in accomplishing it, no matter how simple or difficult is the task. I am now a working man and a father of a



working boy, and these lessons you have imparted are always in my mind. Because of this, I have learned to appreciate opportunities in life, and I owe it all to you.

As I walk on the path you have shown me, pretty much in your footsteps, I dream and aim to be at least half as awesome as you. You have given me the best things in life: your time, your care, and your love and your affection.

*It will be difficult to follow your footsteps, but I will do my best because that is how you raised me!!

*I pray God from the bottom of my heart for your happiness, peace, good health and long life.



Sangeeta Singh

(Younger Daughter)

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Absolute GRACE Personified

There is no doubt that my father's role had been very vital in my life. He is the one whom I admire the most. I am who I am because of the influence he has had and continues to have on me. I remember my childhood fondly with him always taking out time to play with me, catch up on all the happenings in my day-to-day activities in school and at home and even massaging my aching legs until I could fall asleep. He has always been patient, soft-spoken, attentive, and like a friend. He is the first person to whom I prefer to approach whenever I face any problem or difficulty as well as during our happy moments and I am happy to say that I am received with the same attention as always which means a lot to me.

I remember one important instance when my son got seriously sick, I informed my father and he immediately stepped-in as a helping hand; he cancelled his very important meeting and devoted full time taking care of my son and also kept me and my husband consoled and gave courage to us. This stability in demeanour is what I have always admired and tried to emulate in my life as well. It is perhaps one of the greatest lessons that I have learnt from my father. Both of my children also have a special bond with my father. My son Roshil often talks about his career concerns with him, seeking his advice, while my daughter Rishima and he connect well through talks about sports and entertainment.

My father has made me equipped enough to make my decisions and more importantly to learn how to deal with the consequences of the decisions. I feel that people often forget the latter because they are so engaged in making the right decision. I have always seen my father being stern in his decisions and instantly building mind maps to critically analyse and take care of implementing the decisions appropriately. It has honestly made me feel very confident in making major decisions in life after a careful thought and it all roots back to him.

I am so lucky to have such an amazing father as a constant presence in my life. I hope to always be illuminated under his warm light and continue to make him proud as he has made me so. Happy 80th birthday, Papaji! May God bless you with a happy, peaceful, healthy and long life.



Satyawati Singh

(Wife)

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एक कर्मठ, शांतचित्त, मृदुभाषी, स्नेही, अनुशासित एवं विश्वसनीय जीवनसाथी

मैं

सर्वप्रथम अपने पति डॉ. भागमल जी को उनके 80वें जन्मदिन की बहुत-बहुत शुभकामनाएं देती हूँ। मुझे अपने पति के बारे में अपने विचार व्यक्त करने का सौभाग्य मिला है, जो आसान काम नहीं है, लेकिन मैं उनके बारे में जो महसूस करती हूँ उसे लिखने की कोशिश करती हूँ।

मुझे अपने पति के बारे में अपने विचार व्यक्त करने का सौभाग्य मिला है, जो आसान काम नहीं है, लेकिन मैं उनके बारे में जो महसूस करती हूँ उसे लिखने की कोशिश करती हूँ। मेरी शादी डॉ. साहब के साथ 18 वर्ष की बहुत कम उम्र हुई और वे तब 21 वर्ष के थे और उन्होंने स्नातक की पढ़ाई पूरी की थी। मैं अपने पांच भाई-बहनों (3 बहनें और 2 भाई) में सबसे बड़ी थी, इसलिए मेरे माता-पिता ने शीघ्र विवाह करने पर दबाव डाला क्योंकि वे अपनी जिम्मेदारी समय से पूरा करना चाहते थे। हालांकि डॉक्टर साहब अपनी उच्चतम शिक्षा प्राप्त किये बिना विवाह करने को तैयार नहीं थे। लेकिन रिश्तेदारों के दबाव के आगे उनको झुकना पड़ा। अपने आत्मविश्वास और दृढ़निश्चय से उन्होंने अपनी पढ़ाई जारी रखी और शादी के दो साल बाद एमएससी की पढ़ाई पूरी की। चूंकि मैं दिल्ली में पैदा हुई और मेरा पालन-पोषण भी दिल्ली में हुआ था, इसलिए गाँव के वातावरण में स्वयं को ढालना मेरे लिए वाकई बहुत मुश्किल था। लेकिन डॉ. साहब ने हमेशा मेरा पूर्ण समर्थन किया और सभी परिवार वालों को मना लिया, जिसके कारण परिवार के किसी भी सदस्य ने मुझे कोई कड़ी मेहनत वाले कार्य करने के लिए मजबूर नहीं किया। मेरे ससुराल वालों के सहयोग से ही मैं स्वयं को गाँव के माहौल में अच्छी तरह से ढाल पाई।

शहर की लड़की होने के नाते पूरे परिवार को मुझसे खास लगाव था और इसी वजह से मेरी गाँव के वातावरण में ढलने की सराहना की गई और कई लोगों को इसका उदाहरण भी दिया जाता था। डॉ. साहब के प्रमोशन पर बार-बार शिफ्ट होने के कारण मुझे भी बहुत से अलग अलग शहरों में रहने का अवसर मिला। मैंने सदैव ही उनको पूर्ण समर्थन दिया। बच्चों की परवरिश सहित घरेलू जिम्मेदारियों को निभाने में मैंने अपनी ओर से पूरा सहयोग दिया। डॉक्टर साहब ने मेरी इस भूमिका की हमेशा प्रशंसा की, और आज भी करते हैं। डॉक्टर साहब अक्सर यह कहते रहते हैं कि मेरी उन्नति में तुम्हारा बहुत बड़ा योगदान है। डॉ. साहब अक्सर ऑफिस में देर तक बैठते थे एवं छुट्टियों में भी



एक शोधकर्ता के रूप में कार्यरत रहते थे लेकिन मैंने कभी कोई शिकायत नहीं की बल्कि उन्हें सदा प्रोत्साहित किया कि वे ऑफिस के काम को प्राथमिकता दें।

मैं खुद को बहुत भाग्यशाली मानती हूँ कि मुझे ऐसा कर्मठ, शांतचित, मृदुभाषी, स्नेही, अनुशासित, विश्वसनीय एवं परवाह करने वाला साथी मिला। मैं पूर्ण विश्वास के साथ कह सकती हूँ कि मेरा जीवन बेहद सुखद एवं शान्तिपूर्ण रहा है। डॉक्टर साहब का समान रूप में ऑफिस और घर की जिम्मेदारियों को निभाने की क्षमता के कारण ही मैं और बच्चे सदैव इतने सहज और आनंददायक स्थिति में रहे। सभी रिश्तेदार और दोस्त हमेशा डॉ. साहब की बहुत प्रशंसा करते हैं जिसके लिए मुझे बहुत गर्व महसूस होता है।

मैं ईश्वर से डॉक्टर साहब की दीर्घायु और उत्तम स्वास्थ्य की कामना करती हूँ और अपने लिए पर्याप्त शक्ति की प्रार्थना करती हूँ जिससे मैं भविष्य में भी डॉक्टर साहब के प्रगति के रास्ते में हमेशा की तरह समर्थन करना जारी रख सकूँ और सदैव उनका साथ निभाती रहूँ।



Sunita Singh

(Elder Daughter)

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I Am Proud of My Brilliant Father- A Man of Quick Action

My father is a force to be reckoned with! He is a kind, helpful, calm, and articulate person. He is the eldest amongst his siblings and has greater responsibility. He has an inspiring passion for work which is reflective of his personality. He has been influential both professionally and personally and I feel a special pride as his daughter in being a first-hand witness of that.

He has been a great mentor and a friend. He has always ensured that I and my siblings get the best, from education to the simple matters in day-to-day life. He was a stickler for getting good grades but was never overbearing about it which made me feel comfortable and wanted to work harder to impress him. He made me equipped enough to choose a path for myself and all along I knew that I could count on him to cheer for me no matter what. Speaking of cheering, I extend my heartiest wishes and warm hugs to my brilliant father on his 80th birthday. It's amazing how even at 80 he has the same passion and fervour for work. Coming from a family of farmers, he made a name for himself in the world all because of his hard work and determination. His life journey has not only been a source of inspiration for me but now, also for my kids, Vrinda and Bhuvnesh. They have a friendly rapport with him. My son and my father extensively talk about politics, space, and sports while my daughter and he have discussions ranging from current affairs to literature and entertainment. He participates in these conversations with full enthusiasm and spends good time with them.

One of the many things that I will always praise my father for is how he has always respected my decisions and also allowed me the space to feel like my decisions do matter. Emotionally, he has always been there for me. Be it me wanting advice for my career or choosing a life partner, he has always been a pillar of support.

My father has been a guiding force and torch bearer for me for 51 years and I believe he will continue to be the same in future as well. The kind of life I've led, the kind of support I've received, the kind of person I've become – it's all because of my father. I would love for my children to see me in the same light as I see him in. He has made me feel like I'm the best daughter and I can only hope that I made him proud to be my father.

I pray the Almighty for your happiness, peace, prosperity, good health and long life.



Veer Sain Kataria

(Maternal Cousin)

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Dr Bhag Mal: An Inspiring Personality

Hearliest congratulations to my cousin Dr Bhag Mal on completing 80 years of his life filled with success, love and happiness.

There are a few people in life that impact your perspective on everything around you, and Dr Bhag Mal has been one of them. I have been associated with Dr Bhag Mal for a long time. Our journey dates back to the days when I was in school and he was also living at maternal uncle's place and studied up to 8th standard while living in the same village. Since he was only 2 years older to me, two months younger to my elder brother and four months younger to his youngest maternal uncle, all four of us used to study and play together with great pleasure. Having spent such a long time in his close association during the primary and college education, I could know about several of his personal traits. He has always been a friendly person extremely very soft spoken person, trying to find different ways to help out people around him. He used to be an extremely gifted and focused kid, always ready to learn, concentrate on studies and make strenuous efforts to achieve his goal.

Dr Bhag Mal was also fond of games and sports and we spent a lot of time together playing volleyball and cricket with handmade sticks. Dr Bhag Mal is a gifted academician, always excelling in whatever task and responsibility and task assigned to him. After college, I joined National Fertilizer Limited (NFL), while he worked as a Postgraduate Lecturer, at JV College Baraut and later joined ICAR and made steady progress in attaining higher and higher positions and finally as Director at ICAR-IGFRI, Jhansi. He did not stop and moved to a international organization, Bioversity International, where he worked as South Asia Coordinator for more than a decade, After retirement, he served as Senior Consultant a the Asia-Pacific Association of Agricultural Research Institutions (APAARI) and currently at the age of 80 still working as Secretary, Trust for Advancement of Agricultural Sciences (TAAS), New Delhi. His work ethic is such that his peers always praise him for his hard work, sense of responsibility and patience. He is highly trustworthy, well behaved and never gets angry with any one and thus our close bondage still continues including presence in family functions.

I would always wish the best for him, and hope that he continues to achieve more success and prosperity and live a happy, long and healthy life in future.

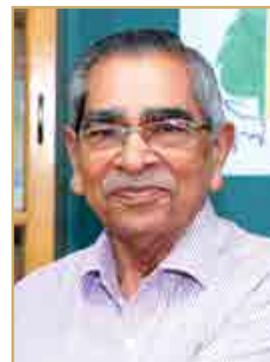


Bhagmal@80

Eightieth Birthday Celebration of Dr Bhag Mal

Gratitude

I express my deep sense of gratitude to Dr RS Paroda, Chairman, Trust for Advancement of Agricultural Sciences (TAAS) for having thought of celebrating my 80th Birthday officially by TAAS. The celebration function was organized in the evening on 1st April 2022 in the NAAS Committee Room, NASC Complex, DPS Marg, Pusa, New Delhi. More than 30 scientists, colleagues and staff of TAAS attended the event which was indeed very well organized. I was overwhelmed about this gesture from Dr RS Paroda and the presence of large number of colleagues including my mentors at the celebration event. It is indeed rare when the Head of the Organization attaches such a high importance for celebrating the birthday of a colleague.



I am also highly grateful to Dr RS Paroda for his decision to bring out a publication commemorating my milestone 'Eightieth Birthday' encompassing the views and opinions of all those who have been closely associated with me in my professional and social life during my fruitful journey in a span of eight decades.

I would also like to express my most sincere thanks to all my mentors, senior colleagues, friends, classmates, relatives and family members who spared their most precious time and took pains to pen down their perceptions, experiences and impressions about me which made it possible to have this memorable compilation. Each one of them has expressed his feelings in his own way narrating some specific instances and events which even I have forgotten. I am not sure if I deserve that much praise about my professional achievements and personal traits as has been expressed in the write-ups. I strongly believe and always practice that the success is the result of team work, mutual trust, hard work, confidence and respect for each other. It is indeed amazing that while going through this commemorative book, I had a feeling that I lived my past once again.

I also take this opportunity to profusely thank my colleague Dr Umesh Shrivastava, Consultant, TAAS and former ADG (Hort.), ICAR for his sincere efforts in gathering the information and compiling, editing and printing of this publication and to Ms Simmi Dogra, Office Secretary, TAAS for her cooperation and support in organizing the vent a great success.

Once again, my heartiest thanks to one and all for their contributions and generous support for making this landmark celebration event memorable.

Bhag Mal
Secretary, TAAS



Dr Bhag Mal Enjoying with Family Members



Dr Bhag Mal and Family



The Family Man



Celebrations with the Family



Relatives and Friends



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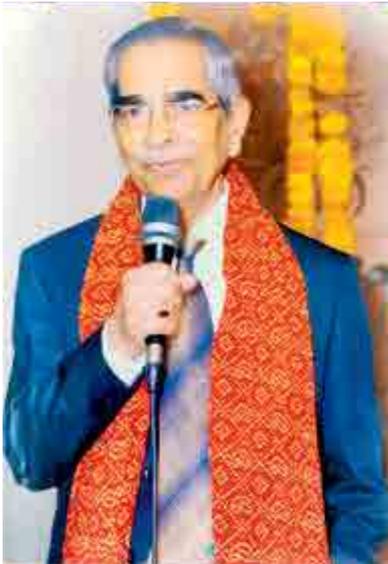
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Birthday Celebration by Family Members





Group Photo on the occasion of Dr MS Swaminathan Award Function 30 November, 2021



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