

## **P. N. THAPAR**

Dr. P.N. Thapar was the first Vice-Chancellor. His four year term began on October 17, 1962. Though given an extension, he did not complete his second term due to ill health and relinquished the charge on June 19, 1967.

As a hard task-master, he selected right persons for the right jobs that eventually placed PAU on a solid foundation for development. For his outstanding contributions to agriculture, he was awarded Doctor of Philosophy (honoris causa) degree by the Ohio State University, USA.

Born on April 13, 1903, he was a distinguished Civil Servant. After his graduation from St. John's College at Oxford, he cleared the examination for ICS. Dr. Thapar is remembered for his role as Settlement Officer (Jhelum) and for his development works as Divisional Commissioner at Lahore and Jalandhar. As Financial Commissioner - refugees and rehabilitation after partition, he arose to become Administrator of Chandigarh at the initial stages when the city was being planned and developed.

He died on November 11, 1982.

## M.S. RANDHAWA

Dr.M.S. Randhawa, ICS, took over as Vice Chancellor on October 28, 1968 and relinquished charge at the end of his second term on October 27, 1976.

A multifaceted personality, he was awarded Padma Bhushan in recognition of his services to agricultural education, research and farming community in 1972. He was a connoisseur of art, a distinguished scientist and an able administrator.

After partition, he strode across disturbed Delhi, as Deputy Commissioner to restore law and order. He also served as Deputy Commissioner, Faizabad, Almora and Saharanpur before getting his cadre changed to Punjab.

Dr. Randhawa was the first Chief Commissioner of Chandigarh, 'the city beautiful', which owes its green cover to his ingenuity and love for landscape and plants.

Born at Zira on February 2, 1909, he did his M.Sc. in Botany from Government College, Lahore in 1931. For his contributions to agriculture and administration, he was awarded D.Sc. (honoris causa) by the Ohio State University, USA.

He is remembered as an author and combining in him the rare qualities of an agriculturist and an administrator.

He died on March 3, 1986.

## **AMRIK SINGH CHEEMA**

Dr. Amrik Singh Cheema became Vice-Chancellor on December 16, 1976 and remained in chair till March 31, 1981. He was recipient of Padma Shree for his contributions to agriculture.

He did his Doctorate in Agriculture Extension from Cornell University, USA. By dint of his hard work, he arose from Agricultural Inspector to occupy coveted positions, as Director of Agriculture, Punjab from 1963-66 and Commissioner for Agriculture at New Delhi from 1966-73. He was an Agriculture Advisor to the World Bank from 1973-1976 before coming over to PAU.

Dr. Cheema was born at Badhai Cheema Village, Pakistan, on December 1, 1918. He was honoured by the Punjab Government with a Gold Medal for raising agricultural production.

He died on July 18, 1982.

## SUKHDEV SINGH

Dr. Sukhdev Singh was Vice-Chancellor for 24 days from November 6 to 29 in 1976 and subsequently for two terms from November 22, 1981 to December 31, 1989.

Prior to joining at PAU, he was Vice-Chancellor of Jawahar Lal Nehru Krishi Vishwa Vidyalaya, Jabalpur.

Dr. Sukhdev Singh joined PAU as an Economic Botanist (sugarcane) on January 19, 1960. He did his Ph.D. from Louisiana State University, USA, in 1966. Having served as Head of the Department of Plant Breeding and as Director of Research, he moved on to the Indian Council of Agricultural Research, as Deputy Director General (crop sciences ) in June, 1974.

During his career, he traveled all over the world and was a member of several national level committees.

Born at Village Dumna in District Ambala on November 1, 1919, he had obtained his B.Sc. and M.Sc. degrees from the Panjab University, Lahore, Pakistan and Chandigarh, respectively.

He is leading a retired life in Ludhiana.

## KHEM SINGH GILL

Dr. Khem Singh Gill was Vice-Chancellor from January 1, 1990 to December 31, 1993. For his contributions to the field of plant breeding, he was honoured with Padma Bhushan in 1992. He was awarded coveted Rafi Ahmed Kidwai Memorial Prize in 1966. For his contributions to wheat research, a medal was given by the Mexican government in 1973 and by the International Maize and Wheat Improvement Centre (CIMMYT) Mexico in 1993.

He joined PAU as Research Assistant in 1951, after his post graduation from the Panjab University, and was a Rockefeller Foundation Fellow in the University of California in 1963.

After a short stint in the state department of agriculture, as an Assistant Oil Seed Breeder, Dr. Gill became Head of the Department of Plant Breeding in May 1968. He was Zonal Coordinator (wheat) of the Indian Council of Agricultural Research in 1972. He served as Dean, College of Agriculture, Director of Research and Director of Extension Education at PAU.

Dr. Gill was born on September 1, 1930. He graduated in Agriculture in 1947 and obtained his M.Sc. in 1951 from the Panjab University, Chandigarh and Ph.D. from the University of California in 1966.

Dr Gill at present is leading a retired life at Ludhiana.

## AMARJIT SINGH KHEHRA

Dr. Amarjit Singh Khehra was Vice-Chancellor from January 1, 1994 till December 31, 1997. As a maize breeder, he made significant contributions to the diversification of agriculture. In recognition of his research, he was awarded Rafi Ahmed Kidwai Memorial Prize by the Indian Council of Agricultural Research in 1986-87.

Having started his career as an Assistant Cotton Botanist at PAU in 1964, he switched to maize breeding in January 1969. He was Head of the Department of Plant Breeding for four years, beginning February 1984.

Dr. Khehra was appointed as Director of Research in 1991, He served on several national level committees of the Indian Council of Agricultural Research.

Born on June 15, 1934, he had obtained his B.Sc. degree from Government Agriculture College, Ludhiana in 1953, and M.Sc. from the Panjab University in 1959 and Ph.D. from PAU in 1968.

He is leading a retired life at Chandigarh.

## GURCHARAN SINGH KALKAT

Dr. Gurcharan Singh Kalkat was Vice-Chancellor from April 14, 1998 to March 31, 2001. Much before his appointment at PAU, he had traveled all over the world and served in different capacities, making significant contributions to the field of agriculture. For his services, the government of India bestowed on him Padma Shree in 1981.

Among the coveted positions he has held was as Director of Agriculture, Punjab in 1971; Commissioner for Agriculture and Additional Secretary (Agriculture), New Delhi in 1973. He was senior agriculturist at the World Bank, Washington, USA, from 1978 to 1989.

Born at Village Sahora in Hoshiarpur on June 17, 1926, he had his initial schooling in Pakistan, did his B.Sc. from Punjab Agriculture College, Lyallpur in 1947 and obtained his M.Sc. degree from the Panjab University in 1956 and Ph.D. from the Ohio State University, Columbus, in 1958. He is an Entomologist.

Dr. Kalkat is now Chairman, Punjab State Farmer's Commission and a member of the State Planning Board, besides being on the Board of Management of the Baba Farid University of Medical Sciences.

## KIRPAL SINGH AULAKH

Dr. Kirpal Singh Aulakh, having served as Pro-Vice-Chancellor from November 9, 1999 to March 31, 2001 was elevated to take over the reigns of PAU on April 1, 2001.

He joined the University as an Assistant Plant Pathologist in September, 1968, and became the Head of the Department of Plant Pathology in 1986. An erudite teacher, he gained his experience in academics and administration during his postings at different positions at PAU.

The experience gained by him as an academician and administrator, enabled him to initiate reforms and revive agriculture in Punjab. He has forged linkages with several foreign universities and institutions to enable PAU share its experiences and learn from the experiences of scientists from all over the world.

Dr. Aulakh, a globe trotter, was the Dean of the largest constituent college, the college of Agriculture during the turbulent period from September 1989 to May 1994 during which, he handled sensitive situations while dealing with staff and students. He also served PAU as Director of Research from June 1994 to Nov. 1999.

To him also goes the credit for Rs. 100 crore "special grant "to PAU announced by the Union Finance Minister Mr. P. Chidambaram in his budget speech to Parliament on February 28, 2006. This is a nation's acknowledgement of PAU's contributions to the first green revolution. As a team leader, Dr. Aulakh is now preparing a road map for the second green revolution in this difficult transition period.



MANJEET SINGH KANG