

Regional potpourri

Dr Khush donates Rs 3.50 cr prize money to alma mater

To repay debt of gratitude to his alma mater, Dr Gurdev Singh Khush, noted rice breeder, donated Rs 3.50 crore to Punjab Agricultural University. This amount is the prize money he received from various organisations for the development of agriculture and increasing food production in the world. Dr Khush was in Ludhiana to participate in the convocation of the university held on January 17. Dr Khush addressed the convocation of the college of agriculture of the university.



Dr Gurdev Singh Khush

Dr Khush said he and his wife had decided not to use the prize money for personal use. They decided to donate it to Punjab Agricultural University which provided him with know-how to achieve distinction as rice breeder.

Dr Khush had worked at the International Rice Research Institute, Philippines, Manila for more than 35 years and the institute developed 330 varieties of rice under his leadership.

Dr Khush feels the alumni of PAU should help this agricultural research institute. There are more than 1,000 alumni of the PAU settled abroad and he would appeal to them to donate for their alma mater.

Dr Khush wants to meet Punjab Chief Minister Prakash Singh Badal and urge him to give grant to Punjab Agricultural University to restore its glory.

Dr Khush has supported recommendations of the SS Johl committee for a cess on rice and wheat to help the university. He appealed to the Punjab farmers not to oppose the cess as they had benefited much from the research in PAU.

PAU vice-chancellor Dr Manjit Singh Kang described Dr Khush as father of rice varieties in the world. Dr Kang said for his contribution to world food security Dr Khush had been honoured with awards like Borlaug award (1977), World Food Prize (1996). This award is equivalent to the Nobel Prize, Rank Prize (1998) and Wolf Prize (2000) besides Padma Shri by the Government of India. He had also been honoured by China, Iran, Thailand and African countries.

Dr K.S.Aulakh former Vice-Chancellor, PAU and Dr D.R.Bhumbla former Vice-Chancellor, Haryana Agriculture University also lauded Dr Khush's contribution in ushering Green Revolution in India and raising rice production in the world.

Settled in the USA Dr Khush is Adjunct Professor at the University of California, Davis. He is working in honorary capacity.

Contributed by ssK. S. Chawla.

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