

OBITUARY

Dr. Kesheo Shraavan Yawalkar (01.07.1925 - 24.02.2022)



Dr. Kesheo Shraavan Yawalkar was born on 1st July 1925. He was founder member of the Association of Soils and Crops Research Scientists. Whether it was the field of agrochemicals, industry, banking or the literary world, his contribution has been invaluable.

Dr. Kesheo Shraavan Yawalkar was born in marginal farmer family in Warud, District Amravati, (MS) India. He joined the Freedom movement and became a 'revolutionary'. He passed his B. Sc. (Ag.) in First class first. Based on his merit he got admitted to the prestigious Pusa Institute (IARI) in New Delhi to do M.Sc. (Ag.) in Agronomy. From there he went to USA to do Doctorate studies in Agriculture at the University of Minnesota. He also got Fulbright fellowship. On completion of his Ph.D. he was offered a job in FAO which he declined to come back to India. Independent India needed technocrats like him to work towards nation building was his firm belief.

After teaching at his Alma mater IARI for a few years he came back to Nagpur in 1962 leaving his cushy teaching job of Associate Professor to jump into the risky field of turning an Entrepreneur.

He was a pioneer in setting up the Depot system and Advance Booking Schemes for Dealers all over Maharashtra. His company, Yawalkar Pesticides pvt. Ltd. had a direct Company to small dealer connect, doing away with distributors. Farmers in remote areas could get his company products at fixed and economical rates, even during peak season.

While, running his company single handedly Dr. K.S. Yawalkar wore many other hats too! He was appointed Director of Bank of Maharashtra by Finance Minister Y.B. Chavan personally and later became one of the Directors of IDBI too. When the Uppalwadi industrial estate was turned into a co-operative he became the first Chairman of the Society and remained so for almost 2 decades. Under his leadership Uppalwadi became an ideal co-operative industrial hub.

He wrote two authoritative books on Indian agriculture: Manures and Fertilizers and Vegetable Crops of India. He founded Agrihorticultural Publishing House (APH) to publish books on agriculture and horticulture written by other Scientists too. APH has published over 30 books on agriculture and other subjects too. His two flagship books are into their 12th and 13th editions respectively and still are in demand all over India. His books are referred by students of Agriculture colleges from Assam, Kashmir to Kanyakumari.

He has coached many Ph.D. students from all over India and has been a member of the Senate appointed by Governor of Maharashtra to select Vice Chancellors for agricultural universities of the state. He was Founder President of Mahatma Phule Shikshan Sanstha and continued on that post for 20 years. This Giant personality passed away at the age of 97 years on 24th February 2022.

We all pray to almighty that his soul rest in eternal peace and give strength and solace to members of his family to bear this bereavement.

All Founder Members
Association of Soils and Crops
Research Scientists, Nagpur (MS) India