



Obituary



Dr. Dilip Kumar Das
(January 3, 1950 to May 6, 2021)

It is with great grief and sorrow that members of the Indian Society of Soil Science are deeply saddened by the demise of Dr. Dilip Kumar Das, the revered Professor and former Head, Department of Agricultural Chemistry and Soil Science, Bidhan Chandra Krishi Viswavidhyalaya and Emeritus Fellow (UGC) of the Institute of Agricultural Science, University of Calcutta. He breathed his last at Kalyani, West Bengal on 6th May 2021 at 2:40 P.M. He was a distinguished and eminent scientist and helping human being.

Dr. Dilip Kumar Das, son of Shri Bhujanga Bhusan Das, was born on 3rd January 1950 at the village Jardoha, P.O. Burwan, District Murshidabad, West Bengal. He did his B.Sc.(Ag.) Hons. in 1972 from Palli Siksha Bhavana, Sriniketan, Visva Bharati; M.Sc. (Ag) in 1974 and Ph.D. in 1980 from Bidhan Chandra Krishi Viswavidyalaya (BCKV), Mohanpur, Nadia, West Bengal. After doing his doctorate in Agricultural Chemistry and Soil Science, he started his career as Assistant Professor at BCKV, Mohanpur on 2nd May 1980. Thereafter, he was selected as Associate Professor on 1st January 1987 as a result of his scientific shrewdness, and he further rose to become Professor on 27th July 1998.

Dr. Das contributed significantly in the field of soil fertility and plant nutrition with the main emphasis on nutrient transformation and heavy metals toxicity. His pioneering research of the chemistry of submerged soil improved the understanding of the micronutrient deficiency in soils of West Bengal. He formulated and supervised many Research Projects of State and National Governments as well as NGOs. He was credited to mentor several M.Sc. and Ph.D. students. He contributed several research papers in peer-reviewed journals of international and national repute. He was invited from various places to deliver special lectures. He remained as Head of the Department of Agricultural Chemistry and Soil Science, BCKV from 26th June 2007 to 31st January 2010. A loving and caring person by nature, he exuded positivity wherever he went. He was awarded the Emeritus Fellow of the Institute of Agricultural Science, University of Calcutta, by UGC in the year 2015. To name a few, he was a recipient of Fellow of Institution of Chemists (2005), Fellow of West Bengal Academy of Science and Technology (2007), Fellow of Indian Society of Agricultural Chemists, Allahabad (2008), Fellow of National Academy of Biological Sciences (2008), Fellow of Indian Society of Soil Science (2011), Fellow of Indian Chemical Society (2012) and Emeritus Scientist (2015). Prof. Das visited UK, USA, Sweden, Nepal, Thailand and many other foreign countries to interact with soil scientists. He is an author of eight books on Agriculture, of which "Introductory Soil Science", "Micronutrients: Their behaviour in soils and plants" and "Problematic soils and their management" are important additions as textbooks not only to the Libraries of Agricultural Universities in India but also to some other countries like Bangladesh, China, Nepal, Sri Lanka, *etc.* He was also serving as an editor of the Journal of the Indian Society of Soil Science and reviewer in different professional journals. In a true sense, a real tribute to such an eminent scientist and book writer is to follow in his footsteps by doing hard work.

For the Covid-19 pandemic second phase, Dr. Das was attacked by the killing virus and breathed his last after a massive heart attack. He left behind one son, who is well established and wife. Dr. Das was an excellent teacher and a very kind human being having a very helping attitude towards all students and staff members. He will remain forever in the memories of his all students and colleagues. Today in the moment of great sorrow, members of the Indian Society of Soil Science (ISSS), particularly the Kalyani Chapter of ISSS pay their homage to Dr. Dilip Kumar Das and remembers him with gratitude. We are deeply saddened by the loss of Dr. Das. He will be truly missed by the entire fraternity of the ISSS family. All the members of ISSS pray to the Almighty to grant peace to the departed soul and grant enough strength to the bereaved family to bear this irreparable loss.