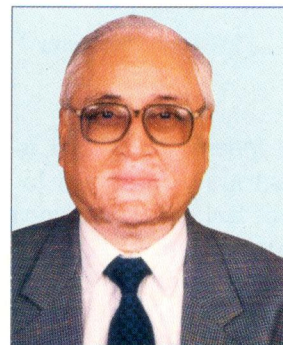


A tribute to our founder member **Prof. Shyama Prasad Raychaudhuri (1916 - 2005)**

Prof. Raychaudhuri was born on July 21, 1916 in Calcutta. He obtained B.Sc. (1935), M.Sc. (1937) and Ph.D. (1949) degrees from Calcutta University. He took Associateship of the then Imperial Agricultural Research Institute, presently the Indian Agricultural Research Institute (IARI) in 1941.

Prof. Raychaudhuri started his illustrious academic career as a teacher in Botany at J.I. College, Dhaka (1941-43). In 1943 he moved to Agricultural College, Pune to work on stenosis disease of cotton. In 1946, he joined at IARI as Assistant Virologist, which marked the beginning of his remarkable professional career. In 1950, he was awarded Fullbright and Smith-Mundt Fellowship to work on characterisation of plant viruses at the Rockefeller Institute of Medical Research, New York. After his return in 1952, he strengthened Plant Pathology in general and Plant Virology in particular. During 1956-62, Dr. Raychaudhuri made extensive studies on viral diseases and virus vector relationships of the viruses affecting, corn, large cardamom, mulberry, tea, etc. at the Virus Research Laboratory, Kalimpong (WB). In 1962, he took over as Professor, Division of Mycology and Plant Pathology at IARI, New Delhi and became Head of the Division in the year 1966. He superannuated in December 1975. Prof. Raychaudhuri pursued academic interest throughout his life and became Honorary Scientist of INSA in 2001. He had guided 70 students for Ph.D. degree, published more than 400 scientific research papers and edited 28 books.



(1916 - 2005)

He was one of the founder member of the Indian Phytopathological Society (IPS) in 1947. He served the Society in various capacities and strived hard to bring laurels to the Society. His untiring efforts as Secretary (1962-66), President (1967) of the Society and the Chief Editor (1968-78) of Indian Phytopathology has raised the status of the Society as the second largest phytopathological Society globally. He was also associated with several national and international societies. He was the first Indian to be elected as Fellow of the American Phytopathological Society and the organising chairman of the First and Second International Plant Pathology Symposium held at New Delhi in 1966 and 1977 under the aegis of IPS. He has been recipient of large number of academic awards and recognitions from many distinguished professional Societies and academics to name a few, Fellow of National Academy of Sciences, India and National Academy of Agricultural Sciences (NAAS), Indian Virological Society and Society for the Advancement of Botany and Association of Seed Pathologists of India. He was recipient of Rafi Ahmed Kidwai Award (1966-67) Plaque of honour in the Conference of XII International Organization of Citrus Virologists (1992); Prof. S.B. Saksena Memorial Award of INSA (1995); K.C. Mehta Medal of NAAS; award of Korean Society of Plant Pathology (1987) and many more.

Prof. Raychaudhuri was instrumental in dissemination of Plant Pathology in the country, inspired generations of agricultural scientists. There is no better word to sum of what he mean to all of us practicing science of Plant Pathology than to quote a copulate coined by his grand daughter.

*....."In this field and beyond, he will surely be missed.
He inspired many, and helped many more,
Including those plants, for which he found a cure".....*