

NEWS

Prof. Prem Narain, Executive President, Indian Society of Agricultural Statistics has been honoured with the National Award in Statistics instituted in memory of Prof. P.V. Sukhatme by the Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation, Government of India, New Delhi on Friday, February 21, 2003 in a function held in New Delhi.

In his professional career, Prof. Narain occupied various positions in Indian Agricultural Statistics Research Institute (IASRI), New Delhi like Professor, Senior Statistician, Senior Professor, Head of the Division, Joint Director and Director. After retiring from the position of Joint Director and Dean, IARI, New Delhi, he remained Professor Emeritus of the CSIR, New Delhi and worked on the project entitled "Studies on Statistical Genetics and Evolution". He has also been a member of the National Statistical Commission, an apex body constituted by the Government of India in January, 2000 to revamp the Indian Statistical System.

Prof. Narain did original researches in the field of statistical genetics and also contributed significantly to theory and application of Statistics to crop and animal sciences. He developed a new concept of average time taken for the fixation of a gene in finite populations. This concept has since found useful applications in animal breeding and evolution. Prof. Narain has also made significant contributions on the mathematics of genetic diversity. Of late, his interest has been in statistical genomics. In particular, he has been contributing on the application of statistics to problems in mapping of quantitative trait loci (QTL).

Prof. Narain has also contributed to the application of computer in the field of agriculture. He was the first to develop a blue print of KRISHINET - an information system for the nation-wide agricultural research and education. Besides significant contributions in the field of statistics and computers, Prof. Narain also made important contribution to the philosophy of agricultural sciences.

Prof. Narain has been holding Fellowship and Membership of several professional bodies and scientific societies both in India and abroad. To name a few, a Fellow of Royal Statistical Society of Britain, New York Academy of Sciences, Indian National Science Academy, Indian Academy of Sciences, National Academy of Sciences, Indian Society of Genetics and Plant Breeding, National Academy of Agricultural Sciences. He is a Founder Member of many professional societies and remained in their Executive Council holding important positions like elected member of the General Council of the University of Edinburgh, UK, the Council Member of International Statistical Institute, President of the International Biometric Society (Indian Region), President of Statistical Section of the Indian Science Congress, Vice President and President of the Indian Society of Agricultural Sciences. He was the Secretary (1982-94), Vice President (1995-96), Sessional President (1993) and presently continuing as Executive President since 1998 of the Indian Society of Agricultural Statistics.

Prof. Narain also chaired the Editorial Board of the Journal of the Indian Society of Agricultural Statistics for many years and served as Corresponding Editor of the Journal of the Proceedings of the Royal Society, London, Member, Editorial Board of Indian Journal of Pure and Applied Mathematics, Indian Journal of Plant Breeding, Indian Association for Animal Production and Indian Dairyman.

Prof. Narain has been recipient of several awards, prizes and medals. Prof. Narain has published over 250 research papers/reports in Indian and Foreign journals, some of them being repeatedly referred to in journals and text books. He has authored seven books, ten book chapters and edited five books.