

## **Dr. P. K. Mehta**

Dr. P. K. Mehta (born 24 July 1959 at Ferozpur City), passed his Matriculation examination from S.D. Hr. Sec. School, Ferozpur City in 1974. He did his B.Sc. (1978) from Panjab University, Chandigarh and M.Sc. (1981) from Himachal Pradesh Agriculture University, Palampur. He received his Ph.D. from Punjab Agricultural University, Ludhiana in 1985 with CSIR fellowship. He joined CSK H. P. Agriculture University (CSKHPAU), Palampur as Assistant Entomologist in 1985 and worked as Entomologist (1993-2001), Principal Scientist (2001-2008). Subsequently he was selected as Professor and Head, Department of Entomology in 2008 and completed his term in 2012.

He also worked as Director Extension Education, CSK HPAU, Palampur for a short stint and consistently tried to bridge the gap between available technology and farmers. As Dean, College of Agriculture he Coordinated year- long Golden Jubilee Celebrations of the College which was established as Junior College of Punjab Agricultural University, Ludhiana in 1966. He also acted as Chairman, Self Study Report Committee and facilitated accreditation of University by ICAR for a period of five years (2018-2023).

Dr. P. K. Mehta's research expertise includes IPM in vegetable crops, protected cultivation and bioecology & management of whitegrubs. During an outstanding career spanning more than 33 years, he has published 133 research papers, one book, 9 book chapters, 6 manuals, one technical bulletin and more than 40 popular articles. He has also 10 NCBI Gene Bank Depositions to his credit. He has 12 recommendations on IPM in the University's Package of Practices against various insect-pests of economic importance in Himachal Pradesh and India. He has remained associated with a number of externally funded research projects in the University as PI and/or Co-PI. Dr. Mehta has successfully executed two multidisciplinary mega research projects worth Rs. 3.5 crore as Coordinator. There are five best paper awards to his credit in different conferences/symposia at the national level.

He remained on the panel of experts of several universities/ ASRB, ICAR institutions and referee of a number of prestigious journals. He was nominated by DG ICAR as Member, ICAR Peer Review Team for Accreditation of CSAUAT, Kanpur (March, 2016) and College of Agriculture, Teerthankar Mahavir University, Moradabad (2020-21). At University level, he remained Member Secretary, Research Evaluation Committee (2011-2016), Member University Research Council, etc. 14 students have received Ph. D. / M.Sc. degrees under his supervision and guidance. He was also a member of Academic Council of CSKHPAU, Palampur, Dr. YS Parmar University of Horticulture and Forestry, Solan and Eternal University, Baru Sahib, Sirmaur(HP). He is the fellow of the Indian Society for the Advancement of Insect Science. During the year 2013, the prestigious 'Himachal Excellence Award' was conferred to Dr. Mehta for his contribution to Science and Agriculture. He is also a recipient of State Innovation Council Award of Himachal Pradesh Government for the year 2014-2015. He also remained a member of the Board of Management, CSK H.P. Agriculture University for a term of two years (2017-19). **He retired from active service as Dean, CoA, CSKHPKV, Palampur on 31-07-2019.**