

## OBITUARY

### Dr. D. N. Rank – An educator and scientist par excellence



It is very unfortunate that we have lost Shri D. N. Rank on 27 August 2022, at a young age of 60, so abruptly and unexpectedly! He was the treasurer of BCSG for almost one and a half decades from 2002 to 2017. Dr. Dharamshi Rank was a Senior Professor of Genetics at the Agricultural University, Anand. He was a visionary scientist, an excellent

teacher and yet a modest, down to earth, cheerful and loving human being.

He hailed from Rabarika village of Gir area, Gujarat. He was very diligent and had set for himself higher objectives in life since childhood. He left his home and loved ones at the tender age of ten, to pursue an independent life, in search of higher education that could shape his life. He came to Vallabh Vidyanagar and did his Secondary Education. His graduation was in Veterinary Science. Having completed graduation, he did his Masters in Animal Genetics & Breeding. He then went to Chennai to study for a PhD on Animal Genetics. Having successfully completed his PhD, he returned to Anand and joined the Veterinary Science College, Anand. A modern, present-day genetic laboratory named 'OM Research Laboratory' was established in Anand Veterinary Science College, under his energetic guidance and with his tireless efforts. Subsequently, he helped this lab get acclamation, nationally & internationally. He also had a remarkable contribution in development of genome chips of Gir cattle and Jafarabadi buffalos through research. This research was carried out in the 'Genome Sequencing Laboratory' established in the year 2008. With this chip, it became possible to select high pedigreed animals which produce more milk in different breeds of cattle. Getting international recognition for various cattle breeds of Gujarat, such as Dagri Cow, Kankrej Cow, Kharai Camel, Dumba sheep, Zalawadi goat, Ankleshwari breed of poultry and many more, was a herculean task, but it was made possible only because of the continuous and vigorous efforts of Dr. Rank.

The versatility of Dr. Rank is understood by the fact that eventually, gynaecologists, kidney hospitals and pharmaceutical companies across the nation started extensively using the facilities being provided by the genetics laboratory, for their

various research projects and studies. He made an in-depth study to rope in contemporary technology on a large scale for the service of people. He was a benevolent teacher and extended his priceless guidance and assistance to the students, even from different colleges and universities, who were seeking higher studies or wanted to settle down in life. He always was very helpful to the students. He involved himself in the overall development of his native village, Rabarika. A field visit to Sagai-Malsamot, after joining 'Youth Hostel Association of India' in 1998, was instrumental in generating his interest in birds and nature in general. During this field visit, he got an opportunity to stay with Dr. B. M. Parasharya, who jointly with Dr. Bakul Trivedi, founded BCSG in 2002. Despite the fact that he was the Head of Department of Genetics in the Veterinary Science College, and was busy with various responsibilities, he agreed to work as the treasurer of BCSG. He did not only restrict himself to discharging his duties in the capacity of the treasurer but also helped the society with meticulous management and proper execution of different activities from 2002 to 2017. He also involved the veterinary science students in bird watching. Although there is a greater emphasis on cattle, poultry, and horses in veterinary science studies, he worked tirelessly to increase the veterinary science students' interest in treating birds. He cultivated an interest among the students in avian surgery. Because of his simplicity, moral values, and helpful attitude, he was loved everywhere and by everyone.

Once, during a trek to the Valley of Flowers, he was accompanying Dr. Parasharya, who suddenly got sick during the trek, and Dr. Rank helped in shifting him to the nearest hospital by a helicopter so that he could get prompt treatment! A great example of friendship and reverence! He never compromised with his principles nor did he ever breach college regulations. He performed admirably wherever he associated himself. Even with the demanding schedule of conferences and seminars of the University, he could spare time for BCSG. The memory of Dr. Rank, who was present at the programme of Charotar Heronry Watch and Count organized by BCSG, on 21 August 2022, only a few days before he passed away, would always remain with all those who were with him in that programme. May his soul meet the eternal power and rest in peace. May God give strength to his family members to bear this terrible loss.

- Yagnesh Bhatt