

OBITUARY



Dr. R. Veere Gowda (1958-2020)

Dr. R. Veere Gowda was born in a farmer's family on 20th August 1958 at Rajaghatta Village, Doddaballapur Taluk, Bengaluru Rural District. He had done B.Sc. (Hort.), M.Sc. (Hort.) and PhD (Hort.) from the University of Agricultural Sciences, Bengaluru. He joined ICAR service at ICAR-IIHR, Bengaluru on 8th September 1991. During his professional career, he worked on onion and carrot crop improvement programme in the Division of Vegetable Crops, ICAR-IIHR, Bengaluru. He was one of the well-known onion breeders in the country and was well appreciated for his hard work and dedication. He was involved in the development & release of 12 onion varieties/hybrids viz; CMS based F₁ hybrids: Arka Kirthiman & Arka Lalima, Short day yellow onion varieties suitable for export Arka Pitamber and Arka Sona, White onion varieties with high TSS and high dry matter content; Arka Swadista, two rose onion varieties; Arka Bindu and Arka Vishwas, true seed multiplier onion variety; Arka Ujjwal, Synthetic Red onion varieties; Arka Bheem and Arka Akshay and white onion variety developed for dehydration Arka Yojith. As major advisor, Dr. R. Veere Gowda has guided 4 PhD & 7 MSc students. He had published 34 research papers & 4 popular articles. Dr. R. Veere Gowda was awarded with NHRDF 2018 for his outstanding contribution for promotion of onion and garlic during 10th Annual Group Meeting of ICAR –AICRP on Onion and Garlic held on 31-05-2019. He also served as I/C Head, Division of Vegetable Crops, ICAR-IIHR, Bengaluru.

It is shocking and very painful to hear the sad news about his sudden and unfortunate demise of Dr. R. Veere Gowda on 28th July 2020.



Dr. S. Thamburaj (1939-2021)

Dr. S. Thamburaj was a renowned horticulturist, and was born on 15th June 1939 in Sirukalandhai village near Pollachi, Coimbatore, TN. He graduated at AC & RI, Coimbatore during 1962. He joined as Assistant Horticulturist at Sandynellah Farm, Ooty to look after the cultivation of cool season vegetables. Then he transferred to Department of Horticulture, AC & RI, Coimbatore. He also worked as Assistant Horticulturist at Fruits Research Station, Periyakulam during 1968 to 1970. He worked in various capacities in the Faculty of Horticulture and responsible for developing vegetable varieties in tapioca, sweet potato, tomato, chillies, okra, brinjal and Amaranthus. He was awarded with outstanding contribution in vegetable research by Fellow of the Indian Society of Vegetable Science and much more other ICAR recognitions.

He served as the Professor and Head, Horticulture Research Station, Yercaud from 1989 to 1992 and Professor and Head, Department of Vegetable Crops from 1992 to 1996 and Head, HC & RI, TNAU, Coimbatore from November 1996 - March 1997. He was promoted as Dean, Faculty of Horticulture, HC & RI, TNAU, Coimbatore from March 1997 and served up to December 1998. During his tenure as Head & Dean, HC & RI, Coimbatore, he was the President of South Indian Horticulture Association (SIHA) from 1996 to 1998. He was also responsible for starting the Centre of Excellence in Vegetable Crops in collaboration with AVRDC at HC & RI, TNAU, Coimbatore from 1996-1998. He was a visiting faculty for AVRDC (World Vegetable Research Centre, Taipei, Taiwan) from 1996-1998. He visited many foreign countries like Tanzania, Taiwan, Malaysia, Thailand, Indonesia, USA, Zanzibar, Kenya etc. He served as the member for Research Advisory Committee for ICAR-CTCRI, Sreekarayam, Thiruvananthapuram from 1999 to 2003 and Institute Management Committee member from 2004-2007. He served as member in the QRT team for ICAR-AICRP (Spices) and ICAR-AICRP (Palms) from 2004 to 2007. He was actively involved in developing organic package of practices of cultivation of vegetables and other fruit crops through OASIS (Organization for Organic Agriculture Sustainable Integrated Society), Coimbatore.

With deep sense of sorrow and profound grief, it is informed to the horticulture fraternity of the sudden demise of Dr. S. Thamburaj on 29.06.2021 due to illness.