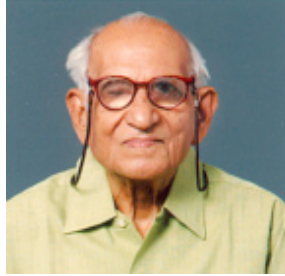


GREAT GURUS OF AGROMETEOROLOGY IN INDIA-



DR. P. D. MISTRY

Dr Purachand Dalpatram Mistry was born on October 1, 1921. He graduated in Physics from the University of Bombay in 1946. He joined as Demonstrator in Physics at B A College of Agriculture, Anand in the same year and became Lecturer in 1953. He did his M.S. (Meteorology) from University of Wisconsin in 1958 and Ph.D. (Meteorology) with specialization in Agricultural Meteorology from Texas A & M University, Texas in 1963. After returning from USA, he became Professor of Agricultural Meteorology in 1964, the post he held till his retirement in 1982.

Dr P D Mistry was pioneer in starting the academic programme leading to post graduate degree in Agricultural Meteorology at B A College of Agriculture, Anand in 1964. Dr P D Mistry was a great scholar whose contribution in improving the education system of Gujarat Agricultural University has been elaborate and widely appreciated. He was the person behind the implementation of semester system and grade point system in GAU. His expertise was extensively utilized by the University not only in formulating the various projects and schemes for the university but also in the development of facilities for libraries and strengthening the teachings of Physics, Mathematics and Meteorology. He was the key person in Establishing the Faculty of Basic Sciences and Humanities of which he was Director for some time. He guided M.Sc. and Ph.D. students in Agricultural Meteorology at Anand and published more than 30 papers on agro-meteorological studies in national and international journals. He was a magnificent teacher and greatly revered by all his disciples.

Being member of Working Group on Agricultural Meteorology of the National Commission on Agriculture, GOI beginning in 1965, Dr P. D. Mistry put in vast efforts that resulted in commencing education and research in Agricultural Meteorology in State Agricultural Universities. He served as a Member of Scrutiny and Recommendation Committee of All India Coordinated Project on Agrometeorology formulated by ICAR in 1964 and subsequently in 1982, as a result of which the project was launched ultimately by ICAR in 1982. Dr Mistry was actively involved in different capacities in Project Advisory and Monitoring Committee of DST on Agro-electronic Instruments and Agro-meteorology during 1983-1995. This has led to infrastructure development for Agro-meteorological research and education in different

In the capacity of QRT member of AICRP on Dryland Agriculture and as a special invitee member, Dr P D Mistry's contribution was enormous in monitoring and evaluating the AICRP of Agrometeorology that provided insight in formulating the research programmes and preparing line of action under the project.

Dr P.D. Mistry was founding Life member and Vice President of Indian Society of Agrometeorology (now defunct) and founding Life member and Advisor to Association of Agrometeorologists.

Looking to his contribution in the field of education and research in agriculture in general and agrometeorology in particular, Anand Agricultural University has conferred upon him the Honary Degree of D.Litt. in 2010. The Association of Agrometeorologists also feel honored and privileged to nominate Dr P D Mistry as Honorary Fellow of Association of Agrometeorologists (HFAAM).