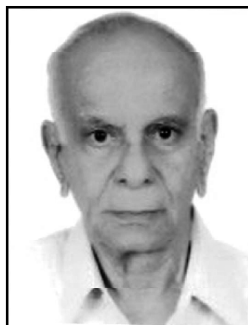


## **GREAT GURUS OF AGROMETEOROLOGY IN INDIA**



### **Dr. S. Venkataraman**

Dr. Sankararaman Venkataraman, born on 20-1-1930, graduated in Agriculture from Coimbatore in 1950 and took his M.Sc.(Ag.) degree in Plant Physiology from Benares Hindu University in 1953. He worked in Pune as an ICAR Research Fellow under Dr. L.A. Ramdas in the Scheme on “water requirements of Crops” and developed gravimetric and volumetric lysimeters for daily measurement of ET of aerobic and anaerobic crops.

He joined the Agrimet Division of IMD in 1958. He drew up a syllabus in Advanced Agricultural Meteorology for agricultural personnel and trained a large number of Indian and foreign personnel in Advanced Agricultural Meteorology. As Secretary of the committee on Agricultural Meteorology of the National Commission for Agriculture he contributed to the establishment of Divisions of Agricultural Meteorology and teaching of Agricultural meteorology at graduate and post-graduate levels in State Agricultural Universities.

Dr. Venkataraman had actively participated in several national and international symposia like UNESCO symposia on (i) Water Relations of Plants in the Arid and Semi-arid Zones at Madrid in 1959 and (ii) Water Evaporation Control at Pune in 1962. He also served, as a Lecturer at the WMO Regional Training Seminar on Agrometeorology for Regional Association II at Tashkent in 1977. His main contribution during his tenure in Agrimet Division, Pune is the organisation of schemes (i) for network measurement of daily ET of a number of aerobic crops and (ii) provision of state-level agromet advisory services.

He voluntarily retired from India Met. Deptt. in 1980 and worked as WMO Expert in Agrometeorology and Climatology from 1980 to 1984 in Yemen Arab Republic. He was awarded Ph.D. by Andhra University in 1983 for thesis entitled “Agrometeorological Studies for Optimal and Planned use of Surface Irrigation and Rainfall Resources”.

He conducted, as a WMO consultant, roving seminars in 1985 in Ankara, Turkey and Rangoon, Burma on the “Meteorological Aspects of Desertification” and presented, in 1986, at Los Banos, Philippines a paper on “Agrometeorological Aspects of Growth, Yield and Water Relations with Special Reference to Rice” at the IRRI International Workshop on “Impact of Weather Parameters on the Growth and Yield of Rice”

He, worked as FAO Expert in Agrometeorology in Lusaka, Zambia from 1986-1988 in the project for forecasting the yields of rainfed crops, principally Maize. ICAR in 1992 published a book titled “Crops and Weather” of which he was the senior author and which had an introduction by Dr. M.S. Swaminathan. He also actively participated and contributed to the preparation of a Vision Document for Agricultural Meteorology for the first two decades of the current millennium by the Department of Science and Technology.

Dr. Venkataraman has published nearly 100 research papers in various national and international journals. His new book titled “Principles and Practice of Agricultural Meteorology” is expected to be published shortly. He is still contributing to and lecturing on topics like (i) Assessment and mitigation of effects of climate change on crop production (ii) Sustainability of crop production with environmental conservation (iii) Agroclimatic planning for optimal and conjunctive use of water resources (iv) Weather-based crop insurance (v) Need for and requirements of agrometeorological advisory services (vi) Pictorial depiction of week-wise crop drought scenario etc.

The Association of Agrometeorologists had (i) honoured him in 2008 for his achievements in promoting Agrometeorology in India and (ii) awarded the Honorary Fellowship of the Association in 2011. Dr. Venkataraman is the mentor for many Indian Agrometeorologists. Association is delighted to receive donation from him for institution of Awards in his honour to encourage/motivate young Indian scientists and quality research in Agricultural Meteorology.