

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



**P.S.N. Sastry**

Polepeddi Suryanarayana Sastry, born on 24-02-1936 at Vijayawada, graduated in Physics in 1955 from Madras University. He obtained his M.Sc. (Meteorology and Oceanography) degree from Andhra University, Visakhapatnam in 1961 with first rank.

He joined India Meteorological Department (IMD) in October 1957 and worked on different field viz. Weather-radar, Aviation weather forecasting and Hydrometeorology.

He joined IARI (ICAR) in 1968 in the Division of Agricultural Physics as Scientist (Agrometeorology) and was engaged in research on evapotranspiration, crop-weather modeling, operational weather models for pest-disease forecasting. He initiated postgraduate research and teaching activities in Agrometeorology in 1968 at IARI. He developed syllabus and designed training programmes in Agrometeorology. He guided students and worked as Chairman for ten Ph.D. students in the discipline of Agricultural Physics (Agrometeorology). He received IARI -Faculty Award as “Best Teacher in Agricultural Physics” at the hands of Dr Norman Borlaug before retiring as Principal Scientist (Agrometeorology) in 1996.

Prof. P S N Sastry was nominated by WMO as Chairman, Working Group on “Agrometeorology of Banana and bush crops”. He prepared a “VISION -2020 Document in Agrometeorology” assigned and published by Department of Science and Technology, Govt. of India. He has served on various committees as member/chairman constituted by different universities, ICAR, IMD and DST.

He has many publications to his credit as invited papers and other research articles in National and International journals.

Prof. Sastry had visited Australia for six months in 1974 as a UNDP fellow in agrometeorology and was invited twice by IRRI, Philippines in 1974 and 1979 for their programmes on “Climate and Rice” and “Agrometeorology of Rice Crop”.

Association of Agrometeorologists is indebted to him for shouldering the responsibility of Editor-in-Chief of Journal of Agrometeorology. His constant guidance, advises and suggestions culminated into the success of Association of Agrometeorologists. It was because of his untiring efforts made since its inception in 1999 till 2010 that the quality of publication of Journal reached to a great height which made it one of the best journal in the country as evident by NAAS rating of 6.6. Association of Agrometeorologists has taken privilege to honour him in 2008 and awarded him the Honorary Fellowship in 2011 for his achievements in promoting agrometeorological research and education in India. With the fund donated by the students of Prof PSN Sastry from IARI, Association of Agrometeorologists has instituted award in his honour for the Best M.Sc. Thesis in Agrometeorology and allied fields.

