

GREAT GURUS OF AGROMETEOROLOGY IN INDIA



Dr. V. P. Subrahmanyam

Professor Varanasi Parvati Subrahmanyam a doyen among Indian Earth Scientists a colossus who strode the arena of development of School of Water Balance and Hydro Climatology in India is not only nationally but also internationally known for his scientific contributions. The hall-mark of his scientific leadership is well stamped on the many scientific organizations which he served and founded, carving himself a niche in the Hall of Fame as an outstanding scientist.

Professor Subrahmanyam was born in 1925 at Parlakhemundi (Orissa), South India. His mother Late Smt. Lakshmi Narasamma and his Father Late Sri. V.V. Narasimha Rao influenced his life by inspiring him the values of scholarliness and commitment to serve any cause that is taken up.

Professor Subrahmanyam received his B.Sc. (Honours) and M.Sc. (By Research) degrees in Physics and D. Sc. in Geophysics (Climatology) from the Andhra University, Waltair and M.A. degree in Geography from the Johns Hopkins University, Baltimore, U.S.A. in 1954. For two years, he was with Late Prof. C.W. Thornthwaite at the Laboratory of Climatology, Seabrook, New Jersey, U.S.A. working on problems of Climatology and Microclimatology.

He was Professor of Meteorology in the Department of Meteorology and Oceanography, Andhra University, of which he was also Head of the Department for seven years. More than thirty Doctorates have been awarded under his guidance in the different aspects of Applied Climatology with special reference to water balance. Individually and jointly he published over 300 papers in both Indian and Foreign journals. His research interests were problems of Applied Climatology of India with special reference to Droughts and Water Resources Management.

The paper on "Water Balance of the Godavary River Basin" published in the Journal of the Institution of Engineers (India) in January 1970, earned a Gold Medal from the Government of India as the best paper among the Civil Engineering aspects. He prepared a technical note in 1967 for the World Meteorological Organization, Geneva, on "The Problem of Incidence and Spread of Continental Drought" in connection with the International Hydrological Decade. He was invited by the W.M.O. to supervise a research project on "World Comparison of Soil Temperatures at Waltair" in 1960 and also to participate as Lecturer in the Agro meteorology Training Seminar at Tashkent, U.S.S.R., in 1977. In 1977 he was invited by the Soka University, Japan, to participate in an International Conference on Statistical Climatology at which he presented a paper on "Classification of Monsoon Climates" using Water Balance Concepts and Criteria. He also made presentation in the General Assembly of International Union of Geodesy and Geophysics held in 1983, in Hamburg and diverted the Gold Medal awarded to him in the name of a Young Scientist Award. He was invited to deliver the key Note Address in XIX General Assembly of IAMAP, IUGG held in Vancouver, B.C., Canada from 9th to 22nd August 1987.

Professor Subrahmanyam has published a book entitled "Physical Climatology" and two text books in Telugu Academy entitled: "VATA VARANA SASTRAMU" (Climatology) and "Paryavaranam mariyu Kalushyamu" (Environment & Pollution) Prescribed for B.Sc. degree students of Andhra University. His research Papers were referred and published in some of the HYDROLOGY Text Books.

He has conducted several research projects under U.G.C., C.S.I.R. and D.S.T. He was an expert member of W.M.O., U.G.C., U.P.S.C., I.M.D. and I.I.T.M, D.S.T. and many other scientific bodies. He was founder president of Indian Agro Meteorological Society and Association of Hydrologists of India.