

## Brief Biodata of Prof. Bimal Chandra Mal

Dr. Bimal Chandra Mal was born on July 11, 1950. He did his B.Tech. (Hons), M. Tech. and Ph.D. from IIT Kharagpur. It was followed by a post-doctoral course from Colorado State University, USA. He topped his M. Tech. class at IIT Kharagpur. After his M. Tech. in 1973 he joined as an Assistant Engineer in the government of West Bengal followed by government of India. He resigned from the job of the government of India in 1976 to join as a Lecturer in Bidhan Chandra Krishi Viswavidyalaya, Mohanpur, West Bengal. After a few months he left the job to take up a new assignment of Research Officer (Water Management) in a Ford Foundation Project at IIT Kharagpur. When he was completing his Ph.D. work as an in-service candidate, he received the offer of Associate Professor from Rajendra Agricultural University, Pusa, Bihar.



Prof. Mal joined Rajendra Agricultural University, Pusa and worked there from November 1979 to March, 1987. He went to USA for post-doctoral training in 1982. Dr. Mal along with his other colleagues established the College of Agricultural Engineering at Pusa in 1983. He contributed significantly in the development of the college through upgradation of curriculum, development of laboratories and teaching courses of many specializations as teachers were not available at that time. He was the Students' Cell in charge of the college since its inception in 1983 till he left in 1987. He contributed greatly in the ICAR funded Water Management project at Pusa. Although Pusa was the new born centre in 1981, it was adjudged to be the best centre in the country within a year.

It was in 1987 Dr. Mal left Pusa to join IIT Kharagpur and develop a newly introduced discipline, namely, Aquacultural Engineering. Aquacultural Engineering is a unique discipline in the sense that it exists only at IIT Kharagpur in the continent. He took keen interest to develop this new discipline by preparing teaching materials as no text book is available. Laboratories have been developed mainly from the research grants received by him. His efforts resulted in the inclusion of Aquacultural Engineering discipline in the Agricultural Research Service (ARS) conducted by the ICAR for recruitment of Agricultural Scientists. Today whatever little knowledge on Aquacultural Engineering is available in the country can be attributed mainly to the contribution of Prof. B. C. Mal.

During his 39 years of career, Dr. Mal contributed for his profession by writing a popular text book on Soil and Water Conservation Engineering, preparing Irrigation Manual, preparing three Teaching Materials in Ethiopia, publishing 82 research papers in international and national journals, presenting more than 104 papers, guiding 14 Ph. D.s and 50 M. Techs. So far he received nine sponsored research projects and nine consultancy projects. He was appointed as a Professor of the Agricultural and Food Engineering Department, IIT Kharagpur in 1996 and was heading the same department from 2005 to 2008. In 2010 February, Prof. Mal left IIT Kharagpur to join as the Vice Chancellor of Chhattisgarh Swami Vivekanand Technical University, Bilai.

Prof. Mal is the member of the American Society of Agricultural and Biological Engineers, life members of the Institution of Engineers (I), ISAE, IASWC, Water Management Society of India etc. His laurels include the most outstanding text book award, commendation award and fellow of ISAE, first position in M. Tech., Ford Foundation Fellowship for post-doctoral training, Research

Board of Advisors of American Biographical Institute etc. He has been connected with a few social and voluntary organizations like Science Centre, Midnapore, Foundation for Excellence, USA. Science Centre Midnapore for which Dr. Mal has been the President received the prestigious Nehru Award from the Prime Minister of India in the Indian Science Congress in 2002 for popularization of science in rural areas of West Bengal. He has been connected with many administrative positions at IIT Kharagpur. He was the Programme Officer, NSS for 2 years followed by Programme Coordinator for 5 years. He could provide altogether a new dimension to the activities of NSS at IIT Kharagpur and Government of India wanted to adopt it as a model. He was the Chairman of IIT Water Works, Horticulture, Commercial Establishments and Licensing Authority, Cooperative Credit Society at different periods. As the Chairman of Water Works, he could solve the water problem of IIT campus to a large extent by exploring and tapping new sources of water. He was also the President of IIT Teachers' Association. During his student days at IIT Kharagpur he participated actively in games and sports. He was the Small Area Games Secretary and General Secretary (Sports) in his 3rd and 4th year B. Tech. respectively.

Prof. Mal is a widely traveled person both in the country and abroad. He visited a large number of universities and USDA research centres of USA for academic purpose including participating in international conferences. He also visited Wageningen, the Netherlands, United Kingdom, Stuttgart University, Germany as a visiting Professor, Alemaya University, Ethiopia for teaching under a World Bank project, Asian Institute of technology, Bangkok, Thailand etc. Prof. Mal has been the member of many national committees like AICTE expert member for accreditation of colleges, QRT member for evaluation of ICAR research and teaching institutes, Chairman of the ICAR peer review committee for National fund on Basic and Strategic Research in Agriculture (NFBSRA) on "A comprehensive study on Argulosis" being carried out at CIFA, Bhubaneswar, DST expert member for award of research grants etc. He has been reviewer of research papers of several national and international journals like the "The Open Hydrology Journal, Aquacultural Engineering (Elsevier), Transactions of ASABE, J. Indian Water Resources Society, IIT Roorkee, J. Institution of Engineers (I), Hydrological Processes Journal, Environment Technology (Taylor & Francis)", African Journal of Agricultural Research as well as book "Effluent Management in Land-Based Aquaculture" published by the Wiley-Blackwell, Oxford, U.K.

Prof. Mal has excellent connection with the rural people of West Bengal, specially, Midnapore district. He initiated and actively organized Krishi Mela at IIT Kharagpur, regularly used to visit rural areas for demonstration of agricultural engineering technology and taking up some social works. Some of his innovative ideas like modification of diesel engine pumpsets for reduction of about 50% fuel consumption are very popular amongst the farmers. His programmes have been telecasted many times.