

OBITUARY

Dr. Mulchand G. Jotwani—an eminent entomologist of international recognition was born on 31 May 1926 at Sehwan (in what later became known as Pakistan). He had his earlier education at Karachi, where he graduated with honours in Zoology and chemistry from the University of Bombay in 1947. Unfortunately, due to partition of India at the time of independence, he could not pursue his education further and migrated to India. He once again continued his studies in 1950 and obtained a Ph.D. degree on 'Studies on the mixed formulations of insecticides' from Indian Agricultural Research Institute (IARI), New Delhi, India.

Dr. Jotwani worked for a short period (October 1950–May 1951) in the Central College of Agriculture, New Delhi and then joined the Directorate of Plant Protection, Quarantine and Storage as Locust Warning Officer. He was instrumental in starting the Locust Research Unit in Delhi. In February 1953, he joined the Division of Entomology, IARI, as Research Assistant and was promoted to Assistant Entomologist in 1958. He got the prestigious position of Entomologist (Seed Testing) in 1962; and in 1965 he was selected as Senior Entomologist and Technical Project Leader (Sorghum and Millets). For a short period of 13 months (December 1978–December 1979), he was also Head, Division of Entomology, IARI, New Delhi.



As Insect Toxicologist, Dr. Jotwani ranked second to none in India. He established a modern insecticide testing laboratory at IARI. He was also instrumental in discovering the first agricultural insect pest, the singhara beetle, which was thought to have developed resistance to DDT and BHC. His work on neem is the most outstanding contribution and needs no emphasis. Dr. Jotwani's work on insect pests of sorghum and millets is outstanding. His success in controlling sorghum shootfly by carbofuran seed treatment has been highly praised all over the world.

He was Life-fellow of the Entomological Society of India and provided a sound footing to the Society as its General Secretary and Vice-President. He served in Editorial Boards of a number of national and international journals.

Dr. Jotwani was a widely travelled scientist. He had attended various symposia and seminars and delivered key-lectures in a number of countries including the U.K., U.S.A., Japan, Thailand, Australia and Kenya. He was once offered a very senior position at the International Centre of Insect Physiology and Ecology (ICIPE) in Kenya, which unfortunately he could not join due to certain unavoidable circumstances.

Joe, as he was popularly called by his American friends, was a conscientious research worker and a dedicated scientist. He generated a feeling of warmth and respect among his colleagues and students that is difficult to put in words.

He was a member of staff of the postgraduate students at IARI and was also a member of the Research Council, Board of Studies, etc. He guided fourteen Ph.D. and two M.Sc. students, who are now well placed in senior positions in both India and abroad.

Dr. Jotwani has over 200 publications to his credit in national and international journals. Besides, he has contributed to several books and has been an author of a few. His books entitled '*Control of Sorghum Shootfly*' and '*Who is who*' are still in great demand all over the country. Recently, he has revised Pradhan's book, '*Insect pests of crops*'.

Dr. Jotwani breathed his last on Saturday 4 June 1983. He is survived by his widow Mrs. Gopi M. Jotwani and a son Naresh M. Jotwani.

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