



## Remembering the Founder, the Mentor and an Invisible Guide Forever

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It is the remembrance of Prof. (Dr.) Ratikanta Maiti, a world-renowned botanist and crop physiologist on his birthday 24<sup>th</sup> April, 1935. He worked on jute and allied fibers at the former Jute Agricultural Research Institute of the Indian Council of Agricultural Research for nine years, and on sorghum and pearl millet at the International Crops Research Institute for the Semi-Arid Tropics for 10 years. After that he worked for more than 25 years as a professor and research scientist at three different universities in Mexico. He also served as a Research Advisor at Vibha Seeds, Hyderabad, India, and as a Visiting Research Scientist in the School of Forest Science, Autonomous University of Nuevo Leon, Mexico. As an author of more than 50 books and about 500 research papers, he was conferred with several international awards including the Ethno-Botanist Award (USA) sponsored by Friends University, Wichita, Kansas, the United Nations Development Program; the senior research scientist award by Consejo Nacional de Ciencia y Tecnología (CONACYT, in Spanish), Mexico; and a gold medal for India in 2008 offered by the American Biographical Institute (ABI). He is the Chairman of the Ratikanta Maiti Foundation. He was the pioneer as chief editors of three international journals including the *International Journal of Bio-resource and Stress Management* (IJBSM). Dr. Maiti passed away on 19 June 2019.

### Messages from his Sons

What can I say as the eldest son? He used to say that before I was born he dreamed naked child Krishna was playing around him and later he received the news of my birth when he was not with my mother. He always encouraged us to have the best education, be prepared and an educated person, to face the world. He used to advice us never tell a lie, never harm people, always help people who are in need. He had the power to run the scientific world and encouraged the professionals to contribute for science and publish. He always encouraged me to publish whatever I did. He helped me to publish in magazines in India. He always stuck to the honesty to face the world but some time when he felt that he was not appreciated, he preferred to take a step aside. To me, my father was a man less understood even by his family that he loved science more than his family. He sacrificed his family to have a global privileged place in science. I am a doctor due to him. His dream was to make me a doctor, but he didn't have resource for that. When I got my Medical Doctor (MD) certificate, he saw in me realized his dream. That day I saw in his eyes great satisfaction as if he personally achieved it. I still remember when I told him that I didn't get the scholarship for my postgraduate in Urogynecology, he told me "Continue, I will help you, finish it". After 28 years of being a MD and 24 years of being a urogynecologist, I can say that whatever I have achieved in my life is based on what he instilled in me. The phrase that marked me in his farewell was "Thank you for lending your dad to science". I said, "Thanks, dad, for being my dad but more a 'dad for science'".

*Sandip Maiti*

My dad was a great human being but not understood by a lot of people. He always sacrificed for the science and his family. In my life, I never felt I missed anything as he fulfilled everything with joy and happiness. I miss him a lot. I am sure he is with the Almighty and continuing taking care of all his dear ones.

*Sanjay Maiti*

