



Professor Dr. Md. Imdadul Hoque
(1957- 2023)

The renowned plant scientist Professor Dr. Md. Imdadul Hoque was born on July 1st, 1957, and is well-known both domestically and globally. In 1978 and 1987, respectively, he earned his M.Sc. and Ph.D. from the Department of Botany, University of Dhaka. In 1988, Professor Hoque began working in the Department of Botany at the University of Dhaka as a Lecturer. In 2021, he retired as a Professor from the same Department. In addition, he was Dean of the faculty of biological sciences of University of Dhaka, a position for which he was elected four times in a row. He worked in the Department of Molecular Genetics at the University of Hannover, Germany, conducting research in Plant Biotechnology, specifically genetic transformation of lentils and chickpeas. In 1999, 2003, and 2004 the Alexander Von Humboldt Foundation gave him Post-doctoral Fellowships. He worked with the FAO-GM-Food Platform as the Bangladesh Focal Point.

Professor Hoque along with Professor A.S. Islam was able to initiate teaching and research activities on Plant Tissue culture and Biotechnology in the Department of Botany, University of Dhaka. He was one of the founder members of Bangladesh Association of Plant Tissue Culture and Biotechnology (BAPTC&B). Professor Hoque successfully performed the professional responsibilities as the General Secretary of the Bangladesh Botanical Society. He was country representative of International Association of Plant Biotechnology. For several years, he was also the South Asia Biosafety program's country coordinator. Up to the moment of his death, he served as vice chancellor of Jagannath University in Dhaka.

In addition to being a Life Member of the Bangladesh Botanical Society, he was also a Life Member of Bangladesh Association for the Advancement of Science (BAAS), Bangladesh Association for Plant Tissue Culture and Biotechnology (BAPTC&B), International Association for Plant Biotechnology (IAPB), Plant Breeding and Genetics Society of Bangladesh, Indian Science Congress Association (ISCA), International Society of Plant Morphologists, and a Dhaka University Botany Alumni Association (DUBAA).

Professor Hoque took advantage of the unique chance to serve the Bangladesh Botanical Society (BBS) and the Bangladesh Association of Plant Tissue Culture & Biotechnology (BAPTC&B) in their Executive and Editorial Committees (in varying capacities) from their inception. Nevertheless Dr. Hoque also held the position of Vice President at his cherished BAPTC&B. Additionally, since their founding, he has actively supported the Bangladesh Botanical Society and BAPTC&B at several National and International Conferences.

When South Asia Biosafety Program (SABP) was barely getting established in 2005, Professor Hoque joined as the country manager for Bangladesh. Ever since, he worked with the government of Bangladesh to develop and implement the nation's biosafety regulations. Professor Imdadul Hoque was one of the pioneers in initiating the biosafety programs in Bangladesh. He has played a leading role in developing and strengthening various aspects of biosafety in Bangladesh.

As a resource person, Professor Hoque had a fortunate opportunity to conduct Plant Tissue Culture Workshops in Katmandu (Nepal), Nairobi (Kenya), Shanghai (China), and Anahem (USA), as well as attend over 30 National and International Conferences both at home and abroad. In B.Sc. (Hons.) and M.Sc. classes, he taught Plant Breeding and Plant Tissue Culture & Biotechnology. He oversaw several M.Sc., M.Phil., and Ph.D. thesis students. Under his capable supervision, ten candidates were awarded Ph.D. degrees by the University of Dhaka, and he also served as a Ph.D. External examiner for many universities in Bangladesh, India, Pakistan, and Nepal. During his active career in the department, he authored over 72 research publications in respected National and International Science Journals on Plant Breeding and Plant Tissue Culture.

Sadly, on November 11, 2020, Professor Md. Imdadul Hoque departed from this life. He is survived by his wife and one daughter. His final resting place is the Shahid Budhijibi cemetery in Dhaka. May Almighty Allah grant eternal peace to his departed soul in Zannatul Ferdous.

Ameen.