

Dr. Gurdev Singh Khush Foundation for Advancement of Agricultural Sciences

G.S. Khush
Foundation

Punjab Agricultural University, Ludhlana-141004

January 2020

Newsletter

No. 4

Dr. Gurdev Singh Khush Foundation for Advancement of Agricultural Sciences was established in 2010 at the Punjab Agricultural University (PAU) with the generous donation by Dr G.S.Khush.

Dr Khush is a PAU alumnus and a world renowned Geneticist and Plant Breeder who worked at the International Rice Research Institute (IRRI), Manila, Philippines for 35 years (1965-2000). More than 300 rice varieties developed under his leadership are grown on 60 percent of the world rice land. Dr. Khush is considered the main architect of the Green Revolution in rice. His contributions have been recognized globally with 19 national and 11 international awards, which include Japan Prize, World Food Prize, Rank Prize (UK), Borlaug Award, Wolf Prize in Agriculture (Israel), Golden Sickle Award (Thailand), Mahathir Science Award (Malaysia), and Honorary Doctorate degree from 16 universities, including Cambridge University (UK), Ohio State University (USA), McGill University (Canada). PAU was the first university to confer Honorary Doctorate Degree on Dr Khush in 1987. Dr Khush is fellow of 12 scientific academies including Foreign Associate, US National Academies of Sciences (1989) and Royal Society of London (1995).

The Foundation has been recognized as a charitable society under section U/S 12 AA (1) b (i) of the IT Act 1961 as issued by the Commissioner of Income Tax vide letter No. CIT-III/JB/LDH/12 A /307/2012-13 dated 24.08.2012.

Details about the GS Khush Foundation can be found on its website: www.khushfoundation.org/

Foundation Objectives

The main objectives of the Foundation are to provide financial support to promote education, research and training in agriculture. These include:

1. To provide scholarships to needy and meritorious students of PAU, GADVASU, and other academic institutions, especially those belonging to rural areas of Punjab State.
2. To award travel grants for participation of young scientists and post-graduate students in scientific conferences.
3. To support team award for scientific excellence in transfer of technology to farmers.
4. To invite eminent scientists for delivering lectures and sharing their knowledge and experience with the faculty and students of PAU and GADVASU.
5. To support research by providing grants on selected topics.

Foundation Activities

Awards

The Foundation bestows three types of awards:

- 1) **GS Khush Merit Scholarship** to undergraduate meritorious students of PAU and GADVASU with a focus on students from rural areas. Each scholarship carries an amount of Rs. 14,400 per annum and a certificate. The scholarships are awarded to undergraduate (UG) students of 7 B.Sc programmes of the 4 constituent colleges of PAU and 3 UG programmes of 3 constituent colleges of GADVASU. In addition, needy students are provided financial support depending upon the budget available with the Foundation.

The first scholarship was awarded to B.Sc (Agri) Hons student in 2011. Since then, Foundation has awarded 330 merit scholarships over the academic years: 2012-13 to 2018-19 (Table). Foundation has approved 77 more



Dr Khem Singh Gill former Vice Chancellor, PAU awarding scholarship to students (COBS&H)



Dr PPS Gill, Retired Punjab Information Commissioner & veteran journalist awarding scholarship to students (COA)



Dr (Mrs) Nandini Bedi, Senior Paediatric Surgeon, Mohali awarding scholarship to veterinary science students, GADVASU

**Number of scholarships awarded by Khush Foundation
(2012-13 to 2018-19)**

Programme	No. of scholarships awarded							
	2012-13	2013-14	2014-15	2015-16	2016-17	2017-18	2018-19	Total
PAU, Ludhiana								
B.Sc. Agri. (Hons.) 6-year	2	5	7	11	15	12	16	68
B.Sc. Agri. (Hons.) 4-year	2	5	6	9	12	6	8	48
B.Sc. Biotech (Hons.) 4-year	2	4	4	6	8	4	5	33
B.Tech. Food Tech 4-year	-	3	2	3	4	2	3	17
B.Tech. (Agri. Engg) 4-year	3	4	4	6	8	4	3	32
B.Sc. (Home Science) 4-year	2	4	4	6	9	6	8	39
M.Sc. (Integrated) 5-year	-	4	4	6	9	6	9	38
GADVASU, Ludhiana								
B.V.Sc&A.H: 5-year	-			4	6	6	6	24
B.F.Sc. 4-year	-			2	4	3	5	15
B.Tech (Dairy Tech) 4-year	-			2	5	5	3	16
Total	11	29	35	55	80	54	66	330

scholarships which will be awarded in its annual function on March 23, 2020.

Foundation has spent nearly 78.0 Lakh in the form of 407 merit scholarships awarded to UG students and Rs 2.0 Lakh for four team awards for transfer of technology to farmers and 82 travel grants to post-graduate students and young faculty amounting to Rs. 8.0 Lakh.

Additional support

- Foundation provided partial financial assistance to nine students who needed support for the study; also supported the workshop at PAU's Regional Research Centre located in Kandi area.
- A special grant (Rs. 3.0 Lakh) was given to the Plant Breeding & Genetics Department to upgrade the laboratory facilities for molecular breeding research.
- Dr. Kuldeep Singh Dhir, Professor, Punjabi University, Patiala was honored with a cash prize (Rs. 25,000/-) and

a certificate of appreciation. Dr Dhir has made outstanding contributions in dissemination of science to the rural masses through publication in Punjabi language.

- 2) **GS Khush Travel Grant** for participation in scientific conferences held in India and abroad to the post-graduate (PG) students and young faculty to share their research findings and interact with other participants. The Foundation has awarded 62 travel grants (2014-15 to 2018-19) and has approved 20 grants (17 students and 3 faculty members) for the year 2019-20.
- 3) **GS Khush Team Award** for scientific excellence in transfer of technology to farmers with the objective of strengthening linkages with the farming community. Each year the Foundation awards cash prize of Rs.50,000/- and a citation to the best performing extension team of PAU. The Foundation has four team awards (2014-15 to 2018-19).

The guidelines for all three awards (scholarships to undergraduate students, travel grant and team award) have



Dr Harwant Khush, vice-chair person awarding scholarship to students (COA)



Dr Gurbachan Singh, former Chairman, (ASRB), New Delhi giving scholarships to students (COHS)



Harman, winner of merit scholarship throughout B.Sc. (Bio-chemistry) programme expressing her views on the GS Khush Merit Scholarships

been approved by the Academic Council of PAU and GADVASU. The Selection Committee for each type of award comprises of Deans of the constituent colleges, Dean Post-graduate studies, Director Research, Director Extension Education, and representatives of the Khush Foundation.

4) Guest Lectures

The Foundation has organized seven guest lectures in series by eminent scientists on topics of general interest to the faculty and students of PAU and GADVASU. These lectures are attended by more than 350 students, staff and other dignitaries.

First guest lecture: Dr Ashok Gulati (Chairman of the Commission on Agricultural Costs and Prices, Ministry of Agriculture, Govt. of India, New Delhi) delivered a lecture in 2014 entitled **“Agricultural Growth: Role of Policy and Technology”**.

Second guest lecture: Dr. RS Paroda (Chairman of the Trust for Agricultural Sciences [TAAS] and former Director General, ICAR, New Delhi) gave a lecture in 2015 on **“Challenges Before Indian Agriculture: The Way Forward”**.

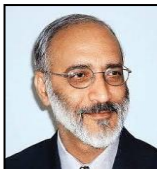
Third guest lecture: Dr SS Johl, a world-renowned economist and Chancellor, Central University of Punjab, Bathinda delivered the lecture in 2016 on **“Socioeconomic Stress in Rural Sector: Some Policy Options”**.

Fourth guest lecture: Dr RA Mashelkar, FRS, National Research Professor, former Director General, CSIR, New Delhi gave presentation in 2017 on **“Agricultural Innovation Ecosystem: From Best to Next Practice”**.

Fifth guest lecture: Dr Montek Singh Ahluwalia, a renowned economist and former Deputy Chairman of the Planning Commission, Govt of India gave a lecture in 2018 on **“Challenges in Agriculture: Some Policy Options”**.

Sixth guest lecture: Dr Harinder Singh Bedi, Chief Consultant, Cardio-vascular and Thoracic Sciences, Shalby Hospital, Mohali (former Head, Cardiology Department, CMC & Hospital, Ludhiana) delivered a lecture in 2019 on **“Heart Problems in India: How to be heart smart- the Punjab connection”**.

Seventh guest lecture: will be delivered on March 23, 2020 by Dr Renu Swarup, Secretary to the Govt of India, Department of Biotechnology (DBT), Ministry of Science and Technology, New Delhi (formerly Scientific Advisor to DBT). She will speak on **“Application of Biotechnology in Advancing Frontiers on Agriculture, Nutrition and Health”**.



Nobel Prize Series India 2019

PAU along with Dr Gurdev Singh Khush Foundation, NABI, Mohali, in partnership with Department of Biotechnology (DBT), Govt of India and the Nobel Foundation organized a “Nobel Prize Series with the theme: Teaching and Learning. It was held on September 12, 2019 at PAU. The event comprised of lectures, student round table discussion and exhibition. Nobel Laureate Professor Serge Haroche gave lecture on **“How basic and applied research nurture each other”**. Dr Juleen Zierath member of the Royal Swedish Academy and Nobel Assembly spoke on **“The Nobel Prize in Physiology/Medicine: Reflections from behind closed doors”**. A large number of school students, teachers, faculty, educationists, medical doctors attended the event. Interaction with Nobel Laureate provided unique opportunity and motivation to the young generation to stimulate innovation and creative thinking in different disciplines of higher learning and education.



Professor Serge Haroche, Nobel Laureate (Physics) and Dr Juleen Zierath, Member of the Royal Swedish Academy and Nobel Assembly interacting with students and research fellows

Congratulatory message

Dr GS Khush extended congratulatory message to awardees and shared words of wisdom emphasizing to work hard, have patience, study thoroughly and be innovative to achieve your goals and to serve the humanity. He extended special thanks to PAU & GADVASU for all kinds of support to carry out Foundation activities. Dr Khush extended thanks to Deans, Directors, Registrars & Head of Departments for their support to the Foundation particularly in selection of candidate for different awards. Drs SS Johl & BS Dhillon also gave words of advice and inspirational message and tips to the students on how to be a good scientist/human being and attain success in life.

Lunch-on meeting and Interaction with the awardees

The award ceremony was followed by lunch get-together at PAU campus where the awardees and the governing body members of the Foundation had informal interaction. Some parents of the awardees also joined the function. The awardees posed several questions to Dr Khush & Dr (Mrs) Khush who shared their experiences with the students. The students also explained their future goals in life. Dr Khush

gave several suggestions for attaining success in academic as well as personal life.

A video was prepared on the Foundation activities highlighting presentation of Guest Speakers: Dr SS Johl, RA Mashelkar, and Dr Montek Singh Ahluwalia. Some activities of the Foundation are available online:

Videos of some activities of the Foundation are available online:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=OmwtLqXpjPE>

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Dr SS Johl & Dr Harwant Khush honouring guest speaker, Dr Harinder Singh Bedi



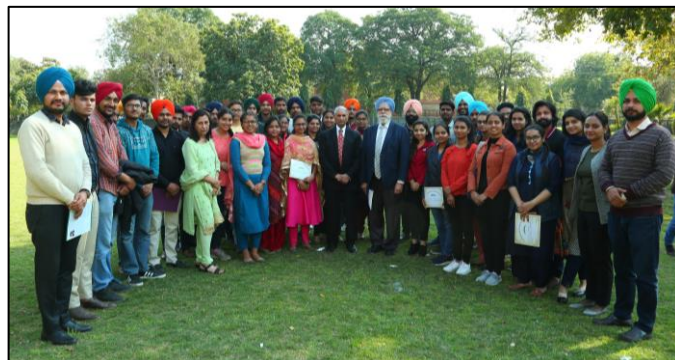
Dr SS Johl awarding travel grants to the PG students and faculty members



Dr Montek Singh Ahluwalia, former Deputy Chairman Planning Commission, Govt of India, giving guest lecture



Dr BS Dhillon, Vice Chancellor PAU with the GS Khush team awardees



Dr GS Khush & Dr Harwant Khush with the awardees

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