

Our Founders

Dr. R.P. Dhir was born on May 12, 1935. He completed his postgraduation in Soil Science in 1956 from Indian Agricultural Research Institute, New Delhi and Ph.D. in Pedology from Moscow State University in the year 1965.

He joined Central Arid Zone Research Institute, Jodhpur in 1969 and worked here till his superannuation in 1995 in various capacities viz. Soil Scientist, Senior Soil Survey Officer, Head of the Division of Basic Resources Survey and also as acting Director.

He extensively studied the arid zone soils for their mineralogy and morphogenesis in relation to land form and age of parent material, status and availability of micronutrients in soils, use potentiality of saline water and high residual sodium carbonate water in agriculture, sustainable management of irrigated sandy soils of Indira Gandhi Canal command area, land degradation & desertification, satellite remote sensing & data processing for thematic mapping.



Dr. R.P. Dhir
(1935-2021)

His research is documented in over 200 peer reviewed research papers and number of book chapters. He has authored two books “Thar Desert in Rajasthan Land, Man and Environment” (1992) (R.P. Dhir, A. Kar, S.K. Wadhawan, S.N. Rajaguru, V.N. Misra, A.K. Singhvi and S.B. Sharma) and “Thar Desert in Retrospect and Prospect” (2018) (R.P. Dhir, D.C. Joshi and S. Kathju). He was Honorary Member and Fellow of the Indian Society of Soil Science. He was Vice President of the Indian Society of Remote Sensing and President of Jodhpur Chapter of the Indian Society of Soil Science.

Dr. Dhir was highly respected for his scientific aptitude. He was very soft spoken, social, affectionate and ready to help all those who came in contact. Dr. Dhir breathed his last on August 14, 2021 at Jodhpur. His tragic demise is a great loss to scientific community and he will always be remembered for his scientific contribution in understanding the natural resource base of hot arid region.