

Prof. M. M. Mehta

Prof Madan Mohan Mehta, 1933 born in Punjab, came to Allahabad as did multitudes from West Pakistan, did his Bsc Ag Engg from Allahabad Agricultural Institute (Allahabad University) in 1957, and M Tech in Farm Power and Machinery from University of Missouri (USA) in 1965.

In 1957, Prof Mehta joined the first National Level Rural Upliftment Program in Independent India, as Senior Instructor at Extension Training Center, Rudrapur (UP Govt.), responsible for imparting Agri-Engg Training to Community Development Manpower. Here he took the initiative of organizing training programmes in fabrication, maintenance and operation of agricultural implements for rural artisans & farmers.

In 1960, at the very start of India's first-Agricultural University, he joined the G B Pant University of Agriculture and Technology, as Assistant Professor, forming part of the Team with Dr C.M.Jacob- the founder Dean of the College of Agricultural Engineering & Technology.

During his 10-years at the University, in addition to Teaching Farm Power & Agri Machinery Subjects & being the Director of Works & Plants of the University, Prof. Mehta is credited with setting up & managing Research & Extension Departments for the College of Agri Engineering & Technology to operate synergistically with the GBPAU Organizational structure. As a part of this responsibility, he guided academics in formulation and implementation of research projects in their respective fields, particularly projects designed to support their user-constituency. His technical support to Tarai Development Corporation in 1965-66, established by GB Pant Agricultural University to support Farmers with HIV-Seeds which fuelled the famous Green Revolution, facilitated its establishment and effective functioning.

In 1970, Prof Mehta was the first Agricultural Engineer to have been invited to Head the Research Programmes of the Premier Engineering Company M/S Escorts Ltd, where he is credited to have established the well recognized ESCORTS RESEARCH CENTRE, which has to its credit design and development of a wide range of equipment, both for agriculture and industries. One of his most enduring contributions was to bring-in Reinforced rubber track-type Paddy Harvester Combine under ESCORTS-CLAAS- JVC, which enabled farmers for timely harvest of Paddy without facing the problem of sinkage of Combine Wheels in wet fields.

During his 28-years long association with ESCORTS, from being R&D Head, he rose to be the Director on the Management Boards of Escorts Tractors Ltd, Escorts CLAAS Ltd, Escorts JCB Ltd, Escorts Yamaha Ltd. , where he excelled in upgrading its respective Marketing and Capacity Building programmes.

During his eventful association with the Industrial world, he earned recognition in Indian Corporate space by serving at various fronts to accelerate the pace of Agri-Mechanization.

These include, being Chairman, for over 10 years, of BSI sub-Committees formulating National Standards for Tractors and Power Tillers during the formative stages of Agricultural Tractor & Mechanization Industry, for nudging National Policies to help growth of Agricultural Tractor & Mechanization as President of TRACTOR MANUFACTURERS ASSOCIATION.

He was member of many Agricultural Engineering related committees of Indian Council of Agricultural Research. Prof. M.M.Mehta was President of Indian Society of Agricultural Engineering.

Prof. Mehta's contributions to Agricultural Engineering profession have thus been multitudinous. He has become a role model for young agricultural engineers aspiring to join in the continuing growth journey of Farm-based Services & industries.

It is noteworthy to summarize that during the long period of his professional engagements, Prof Mehta discharged his responsibilities in different capacities with great distinction, whilst remaining steadfast to his commitment of serving Rural communities, farmers in particular, them being the springhead of engineering-applied-to-agriculture, for whom our profession of Agricultural Engineering exists.