



## Prof. Jaswant Singh Bali

Born on 18 December 1923, Prof. J. S. Bali. obtained degrees of Bachelor of Science from Punjab University, Agricultural Engineering from Allahabad University and Post-graduate course in the Soil Conservation Service of U.S.A.

Prof. Bali has worked in the poverty-stricken villages of Bihar in Damodar Valley Corporation, reclaiming land, building ponds and rehabilitating the oustees from DVC's high dams. He has headed all the institutions and establishments of soil and water conservation in the country. He was Head of Central Soil Conservation Research, Demonstration & Training Centre, Dehradun, Professor at Indian Institute of Technology, Kharagpur, Head of the Soil & Water Conservation Division of the Ministry of Agriculture, and a United Nations Expert in Bulgaria, West Indies, Rome and Malaysia.

Prof. Bali was Head of Central Soil Conservation Division, Ministry of Agriculture at Delhi, introduced the concept of watershed for the programmers of Natural Resource Conservation and expanded the All India Soil and Land Use Survey. It is he who conceived the idea and successfully led the campaign to establish the Central Department of Land Resources. He has felt the real problem of the Indian farmer—*farming without profits*---and has been advocating Bioindustrial Watershed Management, where processing industry and sound marketing will be added to agriculture, eradicating rural poverty. Prof. M. S. Swaminathan has said (in Foreword to Prof. Bali's book on the subject): "I hope soon every watershed in our country will become a Bioindustrial Watershed, in order to ensure work and income security to the rural families. We owe Prof. Bali a deep debt of gratitude for his labour of love."

When riots were taking place against land acquisition for SEZ, Prof. Bali wrote to the Prime Minister saying that farmers' land should be taken on lease rather than outright purchase, and they should be made partners in the industry.

Prof. Bali has authored three books and over 150 technical papers to his credit. He has received the highest awards of the Soil Conservation Society of India (of which he is founder-member and former President), Life Member of Indian Association of Soil & Water Conservationists, and Indian Society of Agricultural Engineers. Prof. J. S. Bali has remained one of the most active members of the SCSi and in the Soil and Water Conservation profession for over 57 years now.

In recognition of his contribution to the profession, the Society confers the Mason Vaugh Award to Prof. J S Bali.