

Dr. Gurdev Singh Khush Foundation for Advancement of Agricultural Sciences

G.S. Khush
Foundation

Punjab Agricultural University, Ludhiana-141004

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Newsletter

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Dr. Gurdev Singh Khush Foundation for Advancement of Agricultural Sciences was established in 2010 with the generous donation by Dr. G.S. Khush.

Dr. G.S. Khush is an alumnus of Punjab Agricultural University (PAU) and a world renowned Geneticist and Plant Breeder who worked at the International Rice Research Institute (IRRI), Manila, Philippines for 35 years. 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 several national and 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. Recently Dr. Khush has been honored by the University of California with the prestigious 2018 UC Davis Medal. The medal is the highest honor presented by the university to those who have made exceptional and sustained contributions to the UC Davis community and beyond. Dr. Khush has supervised thesis research of 49 Ph.D/M.Sc students and guided 26 Post doctoral fellows and trained several rice scientists in rice genetics and breeding across Asia, Latin America and Africa. He has published 172 research papers in referred journals, 84 book chapters, written 3 books and edited 6 books.

The foundation has been recognised as a charitable society under U/S 12 AA(1)b (i) of the IT Act 1961 as issued by the Commissioner of Income Tax. The current members of the governing body are: Dr. GS Khush (Chairman), Dr. Harwant Khush (Vice Chair-person), Dr. SS Johl (member), Sh. Amrik Singh Gill (member), Sh. Kahan Singh Pannu, IAS (member), Dr. Ranjit Singh (member), Dr. Ranjiv Singh Khush (member), Dr. Baldev Singh Dhillon (ex-officio member), Dr. Kuldeep Singh (Treasurer), and Dr. Darshan Singh Brar (Secretary).

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

Foundation Objectives

The main objective of the Foundation is 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

I. 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 carried an amount of Rs. 24,000/-per annum and a certificate. The selection is based on general merit and rural background of each applicant. Beginning 2016-17 the governing body revised the amount of scholarship to 14,400.00 per annum and approved 25 scholarships as compared with 15 scholarships awarded in previous years. The scholarships are awarded to undergraduate students of seven BSc programmes of the four constituent colleges of PAU and three constituent colleges of GADVASU. The first scholarship was awarded in 2011 to Mr. Shubkarman Singh from rural area. Since then, the Foundation has awarded 210 merit scholarships to the undergraduate students over the academic years: 2012-13 to 2016-17 and approved 54 scholarships which will be awarded in its function on 09 March 2018.

So far Foundation has awarded 264 scholarships

**Number of scholarships awarded by the Foundation to undergraduate students of
PAU & GADVASU (2012-13 to 2017-18)**

Programme	No. of scholarships awarded						
	2012-13	2013-14	2014-15	2015-16	2016-17	2017-18	Total
PAU, Ludhiana							
B.Sc Agri. (Hons.) 6-year	2	5	7	11	15	12	52
B.Sc Agri. (Hons.) 4-year	2	5	6	9	12	6	40
B.Sc. Biotech (Hons.) 4-year	2	4	4	6	8	4	28
B.Tech. Food Tech 4-year	-	3	2	3	4	2	14
B.Tech (Agri. Engg) 4-year	3	4	4	6	8	4	29
B.Sc. (Home science) 4-year	2	4	4	6	9	6	31
M.Sc. (Integrated) 5-year	---	4	4	6	9	6	29
GADVASU, Ludhiana							
B.V.Sc&A.H: 5-year	---		2	4	6	6	18
B.F.Sc. 4-year	----		1	2	4	3	10
B.Tech (Dairy Tech) 4-year	----		1	2	5	5	13
Total	11	29	35	55	80	54	264

worth Rs 50.50 Lakh, team award Rs1.50 Lakh and travel grant amounting to 6.0 Lakh. In addition, it has awarded 3 more scholarships to needy students and provided partial support to hold the workshop at PAU's regional research centre located in Kandi area.

The governing body in its meeting held on 31 January 2017 discussed plans to honor science writers who have made outstanding contributions in dissemination of science to the rural masses through publications in Punjabi language. Accordingly Dr Kuldeep Singh Dhir, Professor, Punjabi University, Patiala will be honored at the Annual Function of the Foundation (9 March 2018) with a cash prize and a certificate of appreciation.

- 2) **GS Khush Travel Grant** to post-graduate (PG) students & faculty of PAU for participation in scientific conferences in India and abroad with the objective of

promoting post-graduate students and young faculty to share their research findings and interact with other participants. The Foundation has awarded 33 travel grants during 2014-15 to 2016-17 and has approved 14 grants for the year 2017-18 (11 students and 3 faculty members) who participated in conferences/training programs in Germany, Japan, China, UAE and in conferences held in India (Bangalore, Gwalior Solan, Jaipur, New Delhi,). Each awardee gets maximum amount of Rs. 20,000/- for conferences held outside India and up to Rs. 10,000/- within India.

- 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.



Shri Kahan Singh Pannu, IAS, awarding scholarship to the students (COA)



Dr. AS Nanda, Vice Chancellor, GADVASU awarding scholarship to the students (COA)



Dr. DS Brar, Secretary, Khush Foundation, awarding scholarship to the students (COBS&H)

The Foundation awarded its first team award in 2014-15 jointly to the extension specialists of Krishi Vigyan Kendra (KVK) and subject matter specialists of Farm Advisory Service Scheme (FASS) PAU Regional Research Station Bathinda. The second team award in 2015-16 was given to KVK team of Patiala. In 2016-17, two teams of KVK, Noormahal (Jalandhar) and FASC, Abohar (Fazilka), comprising of 10 scientists jointly won the award. The governing body approved the team award in alternate years, hence next award will be given in 2018-19.

The guidelines for all three awards (scholarships to undergraduate students, travel grant and team award) have 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 of Research, Director Extension Education, and representatives of the Khush Foundation.

II. Guest Lectures

The Foundation has organized a series of guest lectures by eminent scientists on topics of general interest to the faculty and students of PAU and GADVASU.

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 on **"Agricultural Growth: Role of Policy and Technology"**. Dr Gulati highlighted the role of technologies and policies in accelerating growth in agriculture. Discussion focused around subsidies, water and fertilizer use, soil health and government policies.

Second guest lecture: Dr. RS Paroda (Chairman of the Trust for Agricultural Sciences [TAAS] and former Director General, ICAR, New Delhi) presented a lecture in 2016 on **"Challenges Before Indian Agriculture: The Way Forward"**. He described new strategies for natural resource management, conservation agriculture, soil health improvement, enhancing water and nutrient use efficiency and application of new tools of genomics and other biotechnological approaches for increasing crop productivity and sustainability.

Third guest lecture: Dr SS Johl, a world-renowned economist and Chancellor, Central University of Punjab,

Bathinda delivered the lecture on **"Socioeconomic Stress in Rural Sector: Some Policy Options"**. Dr Johl proposed a series of policy options, such as: generating employment at door steps through spreading agro-based industry in rural areas; creating service centers within easy approach; developing farm-level entrepreneurship; encouraging hub and spoke system of production, processing and marketing; creating simple sports complexes and a series of other options which, if implemented, could help small and marginal farmers to overcome socioeconomic stress in rural sector.

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

Dr Mashelkar emphasized that India needs a new national policy, going beyond the National Science, Technology and Innovation Policy. There is a need to create a robust ecosystem comprising of physical, intellectual and cultural constructs. This new national policy needs to go beyond just research labs and include idea incubators, technology parks, a conducive intellectual property rights regime, etc.

More than 350 students, staff and other dignitaries attended these lecture series.

Fifth guest lecture of the series will be delivered on 09 March 2018 by Dr Montek Singh Ahluwalia, an eminent economist and former Deputy Chairman Planning Commission, Government of India. He will speak on **"Challenges in Agriculture: Some Policy Options"**.



Congratulatory message:

Dr GS Khush extended congratulatory message to all the awardees and shared words of wisdom. He expressed special thanks to PAU & GADVASU particularly Vice Chancellors for approval of the guidelines for selection of awardees for various awards. Thanks were extended to Deans, Directors, Registrars and Heads of Departments for their support to the Foundation particularly in selection of candidates for 3 categories of awards.

Interaction with the awardees and faculty: The award ceremony was followed by lunch get-together at PAU



Dr. Ranjit Singh member, Khush Foundation awarding scholarship to the students (COA&E)



Dr. GS Khush, Chairman, Khush Foundation awarding scholarship to the students (COVS)



Sh. Amrik Singh Gill member, Khush Foundation awarding scholarship to the students (COA)

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 asked several questions to Dr Khush and he shared his experiences with the students. The students also explained their future goals in life. Dr Khush gave several suggestions for attaining success.

Drs SS Johl & BS Dhillon also gave words of advice and inspirational message and tips to the students how to be a good scientist/human being and attain success in life.

A video was prepared on the Foundation activities highlighting presentation of Dr SS Johl and RA Mashelkar's lectures and on the award ceremony of scholarships and travel grants. Some activities of the Foundation are available online

(<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=OmwtLqXpjPE>) & (<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=zlyS5YE7sP8>).



Dr. SS Johl, Chancellor, Central University of Punjab, presenting travel grant to the students



Dr. RA Mashelkar, National Research Professor and former Director General CSIR, delivering guest lecture



Dr. GS Khush and Dr. SS Johl honoring guest speaker, Dr. RA Mashelkar



Mrs. Paramjit Kaur Dhillon, presenting GS Khush Team Award for excellence in transfer of technology to the two winning teams of KVK Noormahal (Jalandhar) and FASC Abohar (Fazilka)