

Prof. Dr. A. Abraham – The Academician and Visionary



Prof. (Dr.) A. Abraham (1914-1994) was a visionary, an institution builder and a doyen in Cytogenetics and Plant Breeding. His unequivocal vision and unending perseverance had culminated in the establishment of several institutions in Kerala such as Central Tuber Crops Research Institute, Kerala Agricultural University, Cochin University and Calicut University, and the Department of Botany, University of Kerala.

It was his unrelinquished dream that helped in the establishment of a Botanical garden at palode, and Professor Abraham was the Founder Director of TBGRI (1979-1983). His extraordinary charisma and interpersonal skills in management evoked respect and popularity among policy makers and scientists alike. His far sightedness and mission together enabled him to spearhead a team of enthusiastic youth.

Orchids had a special place of appreciation in his heart, and he had published a detailed treatise on South Indian orchids, wherein 150 species were described and illustrated. As a tribute to his dedicated scientific quest and contributions he has been commemorated by the new plant discoveries; *Ischaemum abrahamii* Mohanan et al; *Lucia abrahamii* Vatsala and *Thottea abrahamii* Mathew et al., and *Osbeckia abrahamii* G.S.Giri & M.P. Nayar.

Kerala Academy of Sciences has instituted the Prof. Dr. A. Abraham Endowment Award-in Cytogenetics, Genomics and Plant breeding to commemorate the contributions of the late Prof. Dr. A. Abraham.