



Bhavarlal H. Jain, Founder Chairman of Jain Irrigation Systems Ltd. receiving the 'Padma Shri' from H.E. President of India Smt. Pratibha Devisingh Patil on 5th May 2008



Dr Bhavarlal Hiralal Jain

1. Dr. Bhavarlal Hiralal Jain, popularly known as Bhau, is a renowned agri-industrialist who is widely recognized for his pioneering work in propagating micro irrigation in India. He has continually sought for improvement of sustainable agricultural productivity by optimized use and utilization of resources through scientific and technological interventions.

2. Born on 12th December

1937, Dr. Jain graduated in commerce and law from the University of Bombay. In 1963, he started a small agency for light diesel oil, and later went on to market seeds, fertilizers, pesticides, tractors, farm implements and other agri-inputs. He started his industrial career with an agro-based product, papain. He manufactured and aggressively marketed in rural India innovative long-lasting PVC pipes which were cost effective and convenient.

3. Dr. Jain tackled the problem of field distribution losses by ushering in, adapting and upgrading micro irrigation technology. He achieved the goal through numerous educational campaigns and the innovative integrated systems approach to address the problems of the conservative farming community. With the untiring efforts of Dr Jain, the mere six hundred hectares under micro irrigation in India in 1988 has now swelled to nearly one million hectares. A whole battery of micro irrigation equipment manufacturers has sprung up. India has now become the second largest micro irrigated country in the world, next only to USA.

4. Dr. Jain's ecological concerns are the very foundation of all his projects. Wasteland reclamation, rainwater harvesting, watershed

development, soil conservation, organic horticulture, bio-diesel/ fertilizers/pesticides and contract farming figure high in his priorities. Biotech, tissue culture, onion dehydration and food processing are some of his hi-tech, research-oriented, long-term, long gestation, high risk investments, generally not undertaken by conventional elite corporations. Dr. Jain has established an agri-research institute and a unique residential public school. He has acquired a global status with manufacturing plants and marketing network in five continents.

5. Dr. Jain received numerous awards for his contribution to agriculture/industry, marketing and social marvels. These include "Dealer of the Year" from Zuari Agro, the FIE Foundation Award for "Innovation in Agriculture and Management," Jammalal Uchit Vyawahar Puraskar, Gandhi-Ambedkar Social Justice Award, and UNESCO-Wes-Net Water Conserver of India Award. The Irrigation Association of USA bestowed on him the Crawford Reid Memorial Award in 1997. The Konkan Krishi Vidyapeeth and the Maharana Pratap University of Agriculture and Technology conferred on him the degree of D.Sc. (Honoris Causa) and the North Maharashtra University, the degree of D. Litt. (Honoris Causa).

PADMA SHRI