



Dr. S. Ramanujam

Dr. Srinivasa Ramanujam was born on October 2, 1903 at Vanavasi near Salem, Tamil Nadu. He had his early schooling in Salem and Madras. He took his honours degree in Botany and Geology in 1925 and was awarded the M.A. degree of the Madras University in 1927. In 1935, he joined King's college, London and obtained his Ph.D. from the London University in 1937.

Dr. Ramanujam began his professional career as a Research Assistant to the Paddy Specialist at Coimbatore. From 1938-1946, he worked as the Second Economic Botanist at the Indian Agricultural Institute, New Delhi. Dr. Ramanujam was closely associated with the establishment of Central Potato Research Institute from its initiation in the year 1945, when the scheme to establish the institute was drawn up under the guidance of the then Agriculture Advisor to the Government of India, Sir Herbert Steward and Sir Pheroz M. Kharegat, Secretary, Ministry of Agriculture. Dr. Ramanujam along with Dr. B. P. Pal, Dr. Pushkarnath, and Dr. R.S. Vasudeva participated in the formulation of the scheme and in establishment of the institute. Dr. Ramanujam was appointed as an Officer on Special Duty for implementing the scheme in 1946. He took over as Director of the institute after its establishment in August, 1949 at Patna and continued in that position till 1956, except for one year (1951-52) when he worked as Director, Central Rice Research Institute, Cuttack. Subsequently, he joined as the Director of Research, Department of Agriculture, Government of Bihar, where he organized and guided all aspects of agricultural research in the state till 1966. Dr. Ramanujam was a member of the Genetical Society of Great Britain and of the British Association for the advancement of science. He became a fellow of Indian National Science Congress in 1952. He was the founder-member of the Indian Society of Genetics and Plant Breeding of which he also became the Secretary and President in subsequent years. After retirement, he settled down in Bangalore. Even after his retirement his expertise was much sought after and he continued to be associated with several expert committees of ICAR, INSA, Government of Bihar and the University of Agricultural Sciences, Bangalore. Dr. Ramanujam passed away on 9th June, 1979 at Bangalore.