



### **Dr. BP Pal**

Dr. Pal was born on May 26, 1906 in village Mukandpur, district Shahid Bhagat Singh Nagar, Punjab and named Brahma Das Pal. He was later rechristened as Benjamin Peary Pal when his father later moved to Burma (present-day Myanmar) to work as a medical officer. He received his early education at St. Michael's School in Maymyo, Burma. He was always first in his class at school and was also fond of gardening and painting.

Dr. Pal completed M.Sc. degree in Botany in 1929 at Rangoon University and won Matthew Hunter Prize for topping among all science streams in the University. He was awarded state scholarship to pursue doctoral research at University of Cambridge, where he worked on the potential of hybrid vigour in wheat under the guidance of Sir Rowland Biffen, F.R.S and Professor Sir Frank Engledow, F.R.S., and received Ph.D. in Plant Genetics and Agriculture in 1933. Dr. Pal started his professional career in March, 1933 as Assistant Rice Research Officer in the Burmese Department of Agriculture. In October the same year, he returned to India and joined as Economic Botanist at the Imperial Agricultural Research Institute at Pusa, Bihar, which was shifted to New Delhi in 1936 and renamed as the Indian Agricultural Research Institute (IARI) in 1947. In 1950, Dr. Pal was the first Indian to become Director of the IARI, New Delhi. He continued to serve in that capacity until May 1965, when he became the first Director General of the Indian Council of Agricultural Research (ICAR). He held this position from May 1965 to January 1972, during which period the Green Revolution was launched with outstanding success. After retirement from ICAR, he served as the first Chairman of the National Committee on Environmental Planning and Coordination.