A tribute to Anil K. Sinha

an outstanding CARDI ambassador

It is with heavy hearts and great sadness we announce the passing of our colleague, Anil Kumar Sinha. Anil was the CARDI Country Representative, in Belize.

Anil began his sojourn with CARDI, in 1983 first as a Technical Officer in Guyana and then in 1989 as the Country Representative in Belize. A position he held until his untimely passing on 20 February 2016.

Anil worked tirelessly to raise the profile of agriculture and CARDI in Belize. He was quite successful in his mission as he continuously represented the Institute with distinction on various national and technical advisory boards. Up until his passing he was the Chairman of the Pesticide Control Board, Belize. He was a “total agriculturalist” and was often consulted for his expertise and advice on issues related to agriculture, climate change and natural resource management, which he gave willingly and effortlessly.
Anil cultivated partnerships with various farmers, farming communities and key national, regional and international organisations. This coupled with his professionalism and tireless work ethic enabled CARDI to be selected as a partner of choice with these entities in the implementation of numerous projects in Belize.

Anil’s contribution to regional agriculture development is hard to overstate. During his tenure Anil sustained a record of pioneering research work in the area of cereals and grain legumes in particular, which transformed the Belizean agricultural sector and invariably impacted on the CARICOM Region. Outlined below are just a few of the many prominent examples of his work:

- Development of post-production technologies for the harvesting, drying and storage of cereals and grain legumes;
- Development of a testing and certification system for red kidney beans. This laid the foundation for the export of this commodity from Belize to the CARICOM Region;
- Instrumental in the development of the CARDI 70 rice variety. This is one of the varieties that Belize cultivated in the early 1990s, which led to the country’s self-sufficiency;
- Conducted annual evaluations and maintained a seed bank of commercial varieties for soybean, corn, red kidney beans, peanuts and rice. This effort enabled CARDI Belize to supply seeds to Haiti and Dominica to assist in recent post disaster recovery efforts.

Under his stewardship Belize was one of the most successful CARDI Units.

Anil’s unstinting contribution to agricultural research and development was recognised by the Institute in 2009, when he was awarded the Chairman’s Award of Excellence.

Over the 30 years of service he has mentored quite a few researchers and technicians and produced more than 40 technical publications.

Indian born Anil, spent most of his working life in the Region, and adopted Belize as his home. He was trained in entomology and pathology at the University Udaipur, India. He also received training in seed production and technology from CIAT, Colombia; Biological Control of Pest, Commonwealth Fund and the Integrated Pest Management of Tropical Crops, UWI St Augustine.

Our thoughts and sympathies are with his wife Nita and their sons, his extended family and staff at the Belize Unit.

CARDI has lost a person of exemplary qualities, an eminent researcher, a diligent colleague and a humble person. CARDI’s Executive Director Barton Clarke in paying tribute to Anil said that his life and work is perfectly summed up with this quote “be pure, be true, be helpful, be attentive and be reverent”.

Anil will be missed. May he rest in eternal peace.