This special issue of the CARDI Bi-weekly is dedicated to the memory of Mr. Anil Sinha, CARDI Country Representative to Belize. Anil passed away on 20 February 2016.

His career in agriculture spanned more than 40 years, the majority of which was spent with CARDI. Anil gave 35 years of dedicated and unflinching service to CARDI.

His legacy to the Institution and regional agricultural development will stand the test of time. He will especially be remembered for his work on the transformation of the cereals, grain and legumes subsector in Belize, and its impact on trade with the wider CARICOM Region.

The breadth and depth of Anil’s experience in agriculture both academically and as a practitioner – was invaluable to CARDI. He will be greatly missed by all researchers and staff at the Institute; as an academic, a colleague and a friend.

30 August 1950—20 February 2016
Anil Kumar Sinha
An outstanding CARDI ambassador

Anil Kumar Sinha was born in India and after graduating from Udaipur University he migrated to Guyana in 1976, where he began working as an entomologist with the Ministry of Agriculture. In 1982 he joined the CARDI Guyana team as a Technical Officer. At the behest of his then supervisor and mentor Dr. B.K Rai he was subsequently transferred to the CARDI Belize Unit in 1983 as an agricultural scientist. In 1989, he was appointed the CARDI Country Representative to Belize, a position he held until his passing on 20 February 2016.

During his sojourn at CARDI Anil worked tirelessly to raise the profile of agriculture and CARDI in Guyana and later in Belize his adopted home. Although he was a trained entomologist/pathologist, Anil’s name however became synonymous with the breeding and development of cereals and grain legumes. His sustained pioneering research work in this area not only led to development of new commercial varieties suited for Caribbean conditions but more importantly contributed to Belize’s self sufficiency in the production of these commodities. Today the country is a net exporter to the CARICOM Region.

Anil’s contribution to regional agriculture development is hard to overstate, some of the more prominent examples of his work includes:

- 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 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 the CARDI to supply seeds to Haiti and Dominica to assist in recent post disaster recovery efforts.

Under his stewardship Belize continued to be one of the most consistently successful CARDI Country Offices.

Anil developed into 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. He represented CARDI with distinction on various national and technical advisory boards. Up until his passing he was the Chairman of the Pesticide Control Board, Belize.

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.

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

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

Anil adored his family. He spoke proudly and tenderly of his children and more recently of his grandchildren too. Our thoughts and sympathies are with his wife Nita and their sons, his extended family and staff at the Belize Unit.

He has left an enduring legacy.

CARDI has lost a person of exemplary qualities, an eminent researcher, a diligent and humble colleague.

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

Opening of CARDI Belize Office, Central Farm 2004

Handing over of corn sheller to farming community, 2013

Receiving the CARDI Award of Excellence 2009, from Chairman, CARDI Board of Directors, Dr. Richard Harrison

Presenting at the launch of the 10th EDF Project, Trinidad, May 2013

Establishing cassava trials, with Ministry of Agriculture, 2015

Surveying flooded corn fields, Belize, October, 2008
Anil Sinha the loss of an eminent researcher

It is with shock, devastation and a sense of the fragility of life that I received the sad news of the passing of Anil Sinha. Anil has been part of the CARDI family for more than 30 years and served with distinction in Guyana firstly as a scientist and subsequently as a the Country Representative in Belize a position he held for most of his sojourn with CARDI.

Belize’s success in the production and trade of corn, soyabean, peanuts, rice, red kidney beans is due in a large part to the research and development stewardship of Anil and the rest of the CARDI team. Many persons may be unaware that the current brisk trade in red kidney beans between Belize and the rest of CARICOM is based on a testing and certification system developed and implemented by Anil and CARDI.

Anil’s life and work can be perfectly summed up with this quote “be pure, be true, be helpful, be attentive and be reverent”.

I will miss him. CARDI misses him. Condolences to his family and staff of CARDI Belize.

May he Rest in Peace.

Mr. Barton Clarke, Executive Director, Caribbean Agricultural Research and Development Institute (CARDI)

A void difficult to fill

Anil’s contribution to CARDI is indelible. Anil was a man who earned great respect from his contemporaries. His untimely demise will create a void, difficult to fill. Condolences to the family and friends of Anil during the celebration of his life.

CARDI St Lucia Unit.

Anil a humble kindred spirit

I was shocked on learning of the death of Mr. Anil Sinha. He was indeed a friend – both professionally and socially. We exchanged ideas on parenting our sons for life ahead; influencing/guiding them towards rewarding/satisfying vocations. Any aspect of agriculture, not necessarily our specialties were game for discussion and yet there was mutual respect to recognize where either of us would be an authority, thus seeking and allowing leadership/stewardship in those instances.

Anil was a humble kindred spirit. He will be missed.

On behalf of the CARDI Barbados family, I extend condolences to his family and the staff of CARDI Belize.

May his soul rest in peace.

Dr. Cyril Roberts, CARDI Country Representative, Barbados

Anil Sinha ….one step ahead in the game

Through hard work and commitment, the name Anil Sinha and CARDI Belize became synonymous with cereal and grain legumes in the Region. He came from a group of persons who are effectively legends in Caribbean agriculture. Within the Institute Anil and CARDI Belize, on many occasions, seemed to be “ahead of the game” and worthy of emulation. Anil’s professionalism and work ethic was surpassed only by his humility. He was one of the good guys.

Condolences to CARDI Belize and Anil’s family and friends.

Ansari Hosein, CARDI Country Representatives, Cayman Islands
An agricultural scientist and researcher of the highest rank

I met Anil Sinha in 1980 when we were young professionals working in Guyana. We established a strong friendship which lasted to his death in February 2016.

Anil Sinha was a quiet, passionate and principled man who spoke his truth carefully and clearly. You could count on his support if he agreed with you and on his counsel if he disagreed with you. He was a man of considerable integrity and generosity of spirit.

Anil Sinha was an agricultural scientist and researcher of the highest rank. His knowledge was extensive and he readily shared his insights and experience. He was a technician who seamlessly integrated theory and practice.

Anil Sinha was a family man and achieved what so many of us strive for - a long, loving, caring and stable relationship with our spouse. He shared this with Nita. He was a father that was present, supportive, helping his two sons to dream and facilitating the making of those dreams a reality. One son became a medical practitioner and the other an engineer.

Anil Sinha lived life as all the great prophets call on us to do: "Live simply, be of service, go lightly on your path". Anil Sinha's life exemplified this recommendation.

Dr. J. R. Deep Ford, Director, Caribbean Region, United Nations Food and Agriculture Organization

Tribute to a beacon of agricultural research

On this solemn occasion, I join the many family members, friends and the larger family of CARDI to pay a special tribute and offer a garland of cherished thoughts to a dedicated and humble servant of the agricultural community, Mr. Anil Kumar Sinha.

Anil was a dear friend for almost 25 years. He was a dedicated family person, mentor, teacher, leader, guide, a patriot and so much more to his immediate and larger CARDI family, and the wider agricultural community, particularly in both Guyana and Belize. Always smiling, a soft spoken voice and with humility, he served the mission of CARDI in a quiet but very effective way. He was CARDI’s most effective researcher for many years, making an immense contribution to developing new varieties of rice, legumes and other crops for the benefit of agricultural producers and consumers. Even in the midst of technical and financial constraints, his dedication and service to the agricultural community remained unbroken and steadfast.

Anil was a practical person that always addressed the challenges of agriculture with a discipline and zeal that produced innovative ideas and solutions. He inculcated the younger professionals to always strive for higher standards and apply discipline and work hard for excellent results to be achieved. With his humility, friendly attitude and disposition to serve, he touched the lives of many, many persons in the agricultural sector and in the community that he resided. His departure has created a large and unfulfilled vacuum in Belize’s agricultural community and he will be sorely missed. An individual of great vision, humility and dedication, this tribute is not sufficient to recognize his stature and his contribution to agricultural development in Belize.

Dr. Dowlat Budhram, IICA Representative in Belize
A dedicated, family man, researcher and colleague

Mr. Anil Sinha was a dedicated mentor, family man, researcher and colleague. I had the opportunity to know him as a teenager growing up, for he was the father of one of my classmates. From the time I have known Mr. Sinha he had this one prominent trait, he was not solely an observer to the things that needed attention. He took action. We all saw what he saw. There were activities that needed to be done and problems that need to be solved. And for most of us we consider that someone else would take care of it. This was not in Mr. Sinha’s character, he never said, “let someone else do it” but rather “I will take it on” or “let see how we can work together”

So although you are no longer with us the knowledge and work ethics you have imparted not only myself but numerous agriculturist will enable us to carry on the work in the sector.

Rest in Peace Mr. Sinha. As we continue to build on the foundation you have established

Lennox A. Gladden, Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries, Forestry, Environment and Sustainable Development, Belize

A legacy that shines brightly

On behalf of the Trinidad and Tobago unit I wish to express sincere condolences to Anil’s wife and family for whom this must be a devastating turn of events. Anil has been a through professional all through his exceptional career as a “total agriculturalist” and had distinguished himself as the consummate research and development practitioner.

His work truly made a difference to farmers and impacted on trade and economic development in the Caribbean the very thing that CARDI’s principals are now requesting. He was ahead of his time. He shall certainly be missed but his legacy shines brightly as a beacon that can never be extinguished.

Farewell comrade.

Mr. Norman Gibson, Head of CARDI Trinidad and Tobago Unit.

Patient, honourable with the highest integrity

I came to the Department of Agriculture in 1992 and ever since I arrive Mr. Anil Sinha was already here working at CARDI and with the Ministry. Dr. Wendel Parham was the Policy Analyst at the time and he introduced me to Mr. Sinha.

The Mr. Sinha I knew was always very patient, honourable and a person of the highest integrity that anyone should know and try to emulate. It did not take too much sacrifice, it came very easy and without much effort on his part. These are the traits that we all need these days and we had a very good example of these traits. Mr. Sinha has past and he will certainly be missed by a lot of people that came in contact with him given his support and example he had provided over the years. Mr Sinha was my friend and he is gone for now but will never will be forgotten.

Rest in Peace, Mr. Anil Sinha, RIP.

Phillip Tate, Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries, Forestry, Environment and Sustainable Development, Belize
A humble servant

The management and staff of the Pesticides Control Board of Belize joins the family, friends and colleagues of Mr. Anil K. Sinha in the mourning of his passing from this earthly realm.

At the time of his sudden and untimely demise, Mr. Anil K. Sinha was the Belize Pesticides Control Board member appointed to serve as Board Chairman, an appointment which he honoured with great diligence and humility. This was Mr. Sinha’s fourth stint as Board Chairman, having been an active Board member since his first appointment as such in 1989.

As Board Chairman, Mr. Sinha also served as the Chairman of the Board sub-committee responsible for management oversight and efficiency, the Executive Committee. In this capacity, Mr. Sinha played a major role in promoting and guiding activities aimed at improving management and operational efficiency within the regulatory institution. His leadership qualities were best demonstrated through his mentorship of Board Secretariat staff, freely sharing of his technical and managerial knowledge and skills whenever requested or whenever he saw it necessary to do so. For this, there never seemed to be a task too small for Mr. Sinha to give full attention to and provide wholehearted direction.

Mr. Sinha also served as an active member of the Registration Committee, the Board’s technical sub-committee responsible for the evaluation of pesticides for registration. In this capacity, Mr. Sinha’s technical expertise proved invaluable, where again his mentorship of younger technical counterparts served as the driver for many successful technical evaluations.

Our Chairman was a humble servant, and it is with gratitude that we recall the activity-filled week preceding his passing, during which we were privileged to have him in our midst, offering his usual professional enthusiasm. To say that Mr. Sinha will be missed is a gross understatement. In fact, it is practically impossible to refer to him in the past tense, his legacy for the Pesticides Control Board remaining very much alive through the institutional processes developed during his time with us.

We are indeed blessed to have known Mr. Anil Sinha professionally and personally through his work with the Pesticides Control Board of Belize for the past 27 years. May his soul rest in peace, and may his legacy of humble service live long.

Miriam Ochaeta-Serrut, Registrar of Pesticides, Pesticides Control Board, Belize

Anil Sinha personified CARDI in Belize

Ever since I knew Mr. Sinha, he worked at CARDI; so for me, he personified CARDI in Belize. His professionalism was second to none. His work in adaptive research demonstrated his scientific prowess and practical approach to problem solving. His guidance and inputs into the Ministry’s Agricultural Policy was invaluable. He frequently shared with me his ideas and experience in crop production, farm mechanization, grain production, soils, and water management among other agricultural issues. I also knew him as a kind person, willing to assist anyone in need. Mr. Anil Sinha was truly an exemplary professional and a gentleman worthy to remember and emulate. He will be greatly missed. May you rest in peace, Sir!

Ricardo Thompson, Principal Agricultural Officer, Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries, Forestry, Sustainable Development and Environment, Belize

The loss of a total agriculturalist

I am quite saddened to learn of the sudden passing of our colleague. I have known Anil from his pre-CARDI days when he worked with us at the Mon Repos Central Agricultural Station (CAS) in Guyana. Those days he was an Entomologist. He developed over the years to be a total agriculturalist and has been a true asset to this Region-his adopted home.

Dr. Leslie Simpson, CARDI Country Representative, Jamaica
Then Almitra spoke, saying, We would ask now of Death.

And he said:

You would know the secret of death.

But how shall you find it unless you seek it in the heart of life?

The owl whose night-bound eyes are blind unto the day cannot unveil the mystery of light.

If you would indeed behold the spirit of death, open your heart wide unto the body of life.

For life and death are one, even as the river and sea are one.

In the depth of your hopes and desires lies your silent knowledge of the beyond;

And like seeds dreaming beneath the snow your heart dreams of spring.

Trust the dreams, for in them is hidden the gate to eternity.

Your fear of death is but the trembling of the shepherd when he stands before the king

whose hand is to be laid upon him in honour.

Is the shepherd not joyful beneath his trembling,

That he shall wear the mark of the king?

Yet is he not more mindful of his trembling?

For what is it to die but to stand naked to the wind and to melt into the sun?

and what is it to cease breathing but to free the breath from its restless tides,

that it may rise and expand and seek God unencumbered?

Only when you drink from the river of silence shall you indeed sing.

And when you have reached the mountain top,

then you shall begin to climb.

And when the earth shall claim your limbs, then shall you truly dance.”

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A few of the tributes received on social media....

Sincere condolences to Mrs. Nita Sinha and family from the staff of the Embassy of Mexico to Belize. We will miss his kindness and warmth.

Carlos Quesnel

Our condolences; noted that he was an outstanding 'ambassador' of CARDI and his work will be sorely missed by those who were familiar with his endeavours

Adrian Johnson

Mrs. Sinha, Tushar and Vishal, it was with great sadness that we learned of Dr. Sinha’s passing, accept our heartfelt condolences. May your hearts soon be filled with wonderful memories of joyful times together.

Rosalinda Alpuche

I had the pleasure and honour of meeting Mr. Sinha some time ago. He was a true professional, very proud of his work (CARDI) and willing to share his knowledge and information. He was courteous and very hospitable. During our informal conversations, Mr. Sinha would often speak glowingly of his family. RIP Mr. Sinha! My condolences to his family.

Deanne Vijayanti Ramroop

Thank you

The management and staff of CARDI would like to thank everyone who took the time to pay respect and share their fondest memories on the passing of our colleague, Anil Sinha. All of us, especially our colleagues at the CARDI Belize Unit sincerely appreciated your support and encouragement during this difficult time.

CARDI Bi-Weekly

The CARDI Bi-weekly is a fortnightly electronic publication, published on the 15th and 30th of each month. The aim is to keep you informed of the latest news, publications, upcoming events on CARDI and our partners. We encourage you to contribute to the CARDI Bi-weekly by sending relevant information that can be included in the upcoming issues to Denise Besai.

Website: www.cardi.org
Facebook: Caribbean Agricultural Research and Development Institute
You Tube: http://www.youtube.com/user/CARDIcaribbean

HQ/01/16

Submitted by Ronnie Pilgrim in memory of Anil Sinha

Taken from The Prophet.