

OBITUARY

Late Prof. Chiranji Lal Jandaik was devoted teacher and a pioneer mushroom scientist with International standing. He was instrumental in the domestication of *Pleurotus sajor-caju* for the first time in 1974 which proved to be a land mark contribution in the field of Mushroom Science. Dr. Jandaik was born on 18 April, 1945 at Village Kalawan in District Shimla, Himachal Pradesh. He did his schooling from Government School Deha, Distt. Shimla, Himachal Pradesh; B.Sc. in 1967 from College of Agriculture then affiliated to Panjab University, Chandigarh; M.Sc. in 1970 and Ph.D. in 1974 from IARI, New Delhi. During his formative years, Dr. Jandaik served as Programme Associate in Ford Foundation at the Department of Mycology and Plant Pathology, IARI, New Delhi for one year. Subsequently, he joined his service in 1974 in the College of Agriculture, H.P. University, Shimla, which in due course became part of the then newly established Dr. Y.S. Parmar University of Horticulture and Forestry, Nauni, Solan, Himachal Pradesh where Dr. C.L. Jandaik rose to the coveted position of Professor and Head in the Department of Plant Pathology under College of Horticulture. Dr. C.L. Jandaik was a life member of Indian Phytopathological Society, New Delhi; Indian Mushroom Growers Association, Solan and Indian Society of Mycology and Plant Pathology, Udaipur. During his professional career Dr. C.L. Jandaik worked on survey, cultivation, post-harvest, fungal, and bacterial diseases of various mushrooms including *Pleurotus*, *Agaricus*, *Auricularia*, *Flammulina*, *Agrocybe*, *Macrolepiota* and *Stropharia*. Dr. Jandaik was the first to report *Pleurotus sajor-caju* from India and is responsible for the standardization of its cultivation technology besides cultivation of *Flammulina velutipes*, *Agrocybe aegerita* and *Macrolepiota procera* for the first time in India. While working on mushrooms, Dr. Jandaik successfully completed number of projects including "Studies on the cultivation of *Pleurotus* spp." in 1975 and "Survey, collection, preservation of various edible fungi of Himachal Pradesh" in 1980. Dr. Jandaik visited Horst, The Netherlands and Marburg in West Germany for advanced training in the cultivation of *Agaricus bitorquis* and *Pleurotus* spp., respectively. He guided 5 M.Sc. and 11 Ph.D. students on various facets of mushroom cultivation and published more than 95 research papers in journals of National and International repute. Dr. Jandaik also contributed 5 book chapters/ review articles. He also edited the book entitled "Mushroom Cultivation in India" in 1986 along with Dr. R.K. Agarwala. Besides establishing Mushroom research facility of National level at Mushroom Research Laboratory, Chambaghat, Solan, Dr. Jandaik framed courses for undergraduate/ postgraduate students specializing in mushrooms in the Department of Mycology and Plant Pathology at Dr. Y. S. Parmar University of Horticulture and Forestry, Nauni, Solan. Dr. C.L. Jandaik retired as Professor and Head, Department of Mycology and Plant Pathology, UHF, Nauni, Solan in April, 2005. Professor C.L. Jandaik was honoured with International Recognition Award on the occasion of International Mushroom Festival (18-20 October 2021), held at Haridwar, India by Government of Uttarakhand, India. Personally to me, he was a pillar of strength and from whom I received huge support and encouragement. In fact I started culturing and cultivation of mushrooms on his advice. The first mushroom which I cultivated in my laboratory at



Punjabi University, Patiala was *Calocybe indica*, for which I received the culture and guidance from him. As a person, Dr. Jandaik was simple, gentle and an honest loveable human being with pleasing manners and firm ideals. Professor Chiranji Lal Jandaik left to his heavenly abode on August 17, 2024 and with this India lost one of the devout mushroom scientist who worked tirelessly on domestication, improvement, culturing, cultivation and popularization of mushrooms in India. Professor Jandaik is survived by his spouse Mrs. Geeta Jandaik, one son Mr. Ajay Jandaik and two happily married daughters Dr. Savita and Mrs. Deepika. One of his daughters, Dr. Savita Jandaik is employed as Assistant Professor in the Department of Plant Pathology at Dr. Y. S. Parmar University of Horticulture and Forestry, Nauni, Solan, Himachal Pradesh and specializes in mushroom biotechnology, the field of her revered father. On my own behalf and on behalf of the mushroom fraternity I pray to Almighty to grant eternal peace and heavenly abode to the departed holy soul of Late Professor C.L. Jandaik and give enough strength to the family members, close relatives, colleagues and friends to bear this irreparable loss.

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