



OBITUARY

ZAKIA IBRAHIM ALI, B.Sc., M.Sc., Ph.D. (1957- 2005)

Dr. Zakia Ibrahim Ali who passed away on 9 March, 2005 in her 47th year, was an associate research professor at the Agricultural Research Corporation (ARC). She was a dedicated plant physiologist known for her researches on wheat, groundnut and sorghum.

Zakia Ibrahim was born on 1 January 1957 at Alshabarga village, southeast Wad Medani across the Blue Nile. Graduated at the Faculty of Agriculture, University of Khartoum in 1983 and joined ARC in 1984 as a research assistant. She was awarded the M.Sc. degree in soil science in 1992 through her study at the University of Gezira (Sudan) and ICRISAT (India), and became a research scientist at ARC in the same year. In January 1997 she was promoted to assistant professor on

recognition of her excellent work as a research scientist. Later, in 2000, she was awarded the Ph.D. degree from the same university. In December 2002 she was promoted to associate professor.

Dr. Ali devoted most of her energies to studies of heat and moisture stress in bread wheat under the harsh production environment of central Sudan. That was through the national wheat programme aiming towards optimization of wheat production, and through the Regional Programme, ARC/ICARDA Nile Valley and Red Sea (NVRSRP) on Cool-Season Food Legumes and Wheat. Also through the network programme, Water Use Efficiency. Information obtained from her phenological, morphological and physiological studies of the wheat plant under the prevailing Gezira

conditions, helps to a great extent in selection of wheat germplasm tolerant to heat and moisture stress, the main abiotic constraints to wheat production in the Sudan. Results of her investigations in this respect appeared in the ARC and NVRSRP annual reports since 1996

Dr.Zakia Ibrahim energies extended beyond all that to include fine tuning the technical packages of the irrigated groundnut and sorghum. In the former, she demonstrated the magnitude of the loss in yield as a result of the deviation from the recommended optimum sowing date .In the latter she produced supportive data based on morphological, developmental and yield studies to strengthen the crucial issue regarding the optimum time to stop water supply from irrigated sorghum crop. Dr.Z.I. Ali's most important scientific papers on wheat germplasm germination appeared

in *Annals of Applied Biology*, 125: 367-375 and on iron nitrogen interactions in *Plant Anal.* 26:2619-2630.

In her annual field days she used to invite her colleagues some stakeholders and beneficiaries who quickly appreciate her remarkable clarity of thought, integrity and standards, which were never compromised. She is a woman who will affectionately be remembered for her collaborative work with the nontraditional clients of the agricultural research outputs. Recently she had started with "Sudan Plan" and the White Nile small pump schemes farmers a project to promote, among other things, quality seed production of wheat in an endeavour to improve the livelihood and alleviate poverty of the inhabitants of the area. Within four years improved seeds production increased from initial few hundreds kilogrammes to several tonnes.

Gaafar Ibrahim