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INDIAN SOCIETY OF
AGRICULTURAL ECONOMICS,
BOMBAY

ANNOUNCEMENT OBITUARY

PROFESSOR GYAN CHAND

With the sad demise of Professor Gyan Chand in New Delhi on April 5, 1983, India lost a veteran economist and a progressive social thinker. During his career covering a period of over six decades, he made notable contributions to teaching, research and the shaping of economic policy in India.

Born on June 20, 1893 in Baluchistan, Professor Gyan Chand had his early education in Lahore. He did his masters degree and obtained his doctorate degree in Economics from the London School of Economics. He taught Economics at the Banaras Hindu University, Varanasi during the period 1926-30. He also served as the Head of the Department of Economics of the Patna University from 1931 to 1946. He was appointed Economic Adviser to the newly constituted Planning Commission in 1948 and occupied this post till 1951. He accepted an assignment with the International Monetary Fund for two years.

Professor Gyan Chand was associated with the Indian Society of Agricultural Economics in its formative years and took keen interest in the formulation of the research programmes of the Society. He held several honorary positions in the Society.

He was a perceptive thinker endowed with sharp intellect and a prolific writer. Among his notable contributions include "Socialist Transformation of Indian Economy: A Study in Social Analysis, Critique and Evaluation", "India's Teeming Millions", "Some Aspects of Population Problems of India", "Population in Perspective" and "The Financial System of India". He had contributed many articles to leading economic journals.

He was a doyen among the progressive economists, a humanist and a man of great integrity, who espoused the cause of the poor and the down-trodden. In his death the country has lost an eminent teacher and economist and the Indian Society of Agricultural Economics one of its pioneers.