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INDIAN SOCIETY OF
AGRICULTURAL ECONOMICS,
BOMBAY

OBITUARY

PROFESSOR RAJ KRISHNA

With the sad demise of Professor Raj Krishna on May 20, 1985, India has lost an eminent agricultural economist and a social thinker. During his brilliant academic career, he made significant contributions to teaching, research and the shaping of economic policy in India. He wrote extensively on topics such as farm supply response, marketable surplus, land reforms, poverty and unemployment, saving and capital formation and minimum needs programme.

He started his career in the mid-fifties with the Indian Co-operation Union, New Delhi. After obtaining his Ph. D. Degree from the University of Chicago in 1961, he joined the Institute of Economic Growth, University of Delhi as a Senior Fellow. In 1965 he was appointed a member of the newly constituted Agricultural Prices Commission (APC) of the Government of India. He resigned the membership of the APC in 1967 and joined the Rajasthan University at Jaipur as Professor and Head of the Department of Economics. He occupied this position till 1975. He then joined the University of Delhi as Professor of Economics and worked there until 1977. For some time, he also worked as Director of the Agricultural Economics Research Centre in the University of Delhi. He was appointed a member of the Planning Commission in 1977 and continued in this position till 1979. He was also a member of the Seventh Finance Commission. After relinquishing the membership of the Planning Commission, he accepted a short-term assignment with the World Bank as a Senior Economist. Later, he resumed his duties at the University of Delhi as Professor of Economics. He had gone to Rome on a short term research assignment with the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations where his sad demise took place.

Professor Raj Krishna had taken keen interest in the activities of the Society. He was elected President of the 32nd Annual Conference of the Society and presided over its deliberations in December 1972. His presidential address dealt with the theme of unemployment in India.

His writings were sharp and incisive. He did not hesitate to say whatever he felt forcefully but leavened it. His seminal work on "Farm Supply Response in the Punjab (India-Pakistan)—A Case Study of Cotton" was perhaps the first attempt to apply econometric tools to the analysis and study of farm supply response in India. His writing were published in many leading economic journals both in India and abroad. In his death the country has lost an eminent teacher and economist and the Society an esteemed member and guide.