

1. PROF. DR. SYED IRTIFAQ ALI, Ph.D., D.Sc.

Prof. Dr. Syed Irtifaq Ali, Professor of Botany (Retd.) and former Vice-Chancellor, University of Karachi has spent about 56 years in teaching and research. He was awarded the degree of M.Sc. (1952) by the University of Allahabad and Ph.D. (1958) and D.Sc. (1979) by the University of London.

He is an internationally renowned top ranking systematic botanist. He is the author of three books and more than 136 research papers, published in well-known national and international journals. The *magnum opus* of Professor Ali is the **Flora of Pakistan** that he has edited along with E. Nasir, J. Nasir & M. Qaiser for the last 38 years. This work is devoted to the evaluation and categorization of the plant wealth of Pakistan. It is a source book of basic information about the plant genetic resources of the country. Thus it provides fundamental information for the preservation and systematic utilization of the plant wealth of Pakistan. This painstaking work of Professor Ali and his associates contains an account of 215 families based on the description of 1384 genera and 4758 species of plants of Pakistan spread over 6815 pages. Nowadays he is performing his duties as National Distinguished Professor under the auspices of Higher Education Commission.

2. DR. ATHAR TARIQ, PhD, DSc

Dr. Athar Tariq is a senior scientist at California Department of Food and Agriculture (CDFA), Sacramento, USA where he has been managing a multi-million dollar portfolio of research projects on plant diseases. Dr. Tariq has M.Sc. (1972) and M.Phil. (1980) in Botany from the University of Karachi and a Ph.D. (1995) in Natural Resources from Utah State

University, USA. University of Karachi conferred upon him the first D.Sc. in Botany in 2007. Dr. Tariq has been affiliated with University of Karachi (1970-1981) and Pakistan Agricultural Research Council, Islamabad (1981-1999). He has been a visiting scientist at University of California, Davis (1995-1997) at the Department of Environmental Horticulture, and the Department of Agronomy and Range Science. Dr. Tariq has special expertise in agricultural biotechnology and environmental sciences. He has been actively involved in agricultural research for the last 35 years. His publications include over 110 original scientific papers and book chapters. His research has been recognized internationally and included in 13 text and reference books. His research on flora is a major effort in exploring natural resources for increasing agricultural productivity. Dr. Tariq has numerous gold medals and international awards to his credit in recognition of his research of high distinction constituting a substantial and original contribution to plant and environmental sciences.