

A Spotlight on the Life of Professor Raifa A. Hassanein (1946-2021)

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Raifa Ahmed Hassanein.

Dr. Raifa Hassanein was born on July 15, 1946, in El-Menofia city, Egypt. She received a BSc degree in Botany from the Faculty of Science, Ain Shams University in 1967 followed by M.Sc. in 1972 with a thesis titled "Physiological Studies on Plant Growth Regulators Exuded from Certain Weeds" and Ph.D. in 1977 with a thesis titled "Effect of Certain Growth Regulators on Plant Growth and Metabolism", both were under the supervision of Professor Hassan Anwar Foda, the godfather of plant growth regulators' research in Egypt.

Hassanein was promoted to full professor of plant physiology in 1990 at the Faculty of Science, Ain Shams University, Egypt. During her scientific career, she supervised 62 theses (32 M.Sc. and 30 Ph.D.). She referred over 100 Ph.D. and M.Sc. theses at almost all Egyptian universities as well as other universities around the world such as Banaras, Hindu University, India. She also served as a referee for a number of scientific ventures in Egypt, Jordan, and Iraq.

She was appointed as a Head of Botany Department, Faculty of Science, Ain Shams University from 2002 to 2006. For the first time

in the Botany Department, she constructed an ecology unit in 2005. She has also served as a visiting professor at Purdue University's Agricultural School and Life Science Department, West Lafayette, Indiana, USA during, 1996.

Hassanein was a member of many professional organizations including the American oil chemists Society (AOCS), Egyptian syndicate of science, Egyptian society of Botany, Egyptian British Biological Society, Egyptian Society for Environmental Sciences, Specialized National Councils (Genetic Engineering Committee), Egyptian Society of Natural Toxins and Committee of Arab Biologists. She was also a member of the Scientific Permanent Committee for Promotion of Associate Professors and Professors in botany (From 2000 - 2008).

Hassanein has more than 80 research papers published in highly impacted journals such as Food and Chemical Toxicology, Ecotoxicology and Environmental Safety, and Agronomy. Besides her pioneer research in the field of plant growth regulators, her work also focused on the physiological and molecular changes associated with environmental stress in plants. Using physiological and molecular approaches, her research work provided applied methods to increase plant tolerance against biotic and abiotic stresses.

Hassanein passed away on February 4, 2021 at the age of 75 years old. She worked energetically with her students in her lab until the very last day. We regret the loss of a brilliant, passionate, and creative scientist but her achievements will keep her legacy alive.

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