

## In honor and memoriam



The entire Sehgal Foundation team mourns the death of a valued collaborator and friend, Air Vice Marshal (Retired) Surinder Sahni (December 10, 1926–May 20, 2018).

AVM Sahni served as a trustee of S M Sehgal Foundation for more than nine years (2004 through 2013). After his distinguished career in the Indian Air Force, he dedicated his retired life to the development of rural communities. He was instrumental in shaping the direction of Sehgal Foundation during an early critical juncture, when the team was deciding whether to remain a funding organization or become an implementing organization. He was one of several key people in the social sector invited to discuss this issue at a forum held at the India International Center. He wisely urged the foundation to be an implementing

organization, underlining how difficult it was at that time to find any solid, credible, and honest organizations doing good work in North India.

AVM Sahni had many innovative ideas for how to make a positive difference in the lives of the rural poor. He spoke with authority and passion and offered practical advice. He aggressively promoted the cultivation of dhaincha (a green manuring plant) for low-cost fuel and coarse fiber. Hailing from Rajasthan, a very dry state with scanty rainfall, he had special interest in water harvesting, conservation, and storage.

AVM Sahni remained a wise and wonderful well-wisher and friend to the Sehgal Foundation team, and we will always be grateful to him. The Sehgal Foundation team stands with his grieving family.