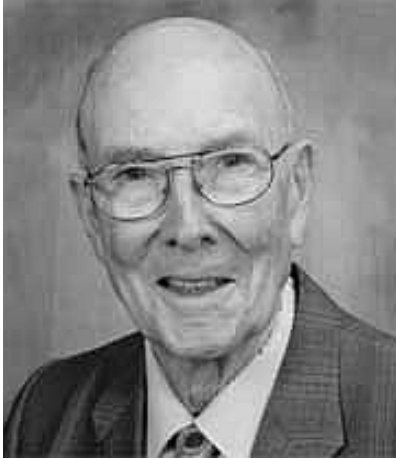


Dr. C. Fred Bentley Biography



Dr. C. Fred Bentley, P. Ag.

A variety of international agricultural development assistance activities punctuated the time of the Bentleys at the University of Alberta. Major assignments included a year in Sri Lanka (1952-53); three months in Thailand (1962); three months (1967) for Fred in India as leader of a ten member Canadian Agricultural Task Force seeking to identify how Canadian capabilities and resources might be able to assist India's agriculture sector.

As a result of that work Bentley spent a year in the Canadian International Development Agency (CIDA) as the first Special Advisor for Agriculture. The CIDA position entailed about four months visiting more than a dozen developing countries. In 1970 with the establishment of The International Development Research Centre in Ottawa, Fred became a member of the Board of Governors, and of its Executive Committee, under the Chairmanship of former Prime Minister Pearson.

In 1972 Bentley was invited to become a member of the Governing Board of a new agency, the International Crops Research Institute for the Semi-Arid Tropics (ICRISAT) near Hyderabad, India. He served, in a voluntary capacity, as Chair of the ICRISAT Board for ten years. During that time ICRISAT became one of the largest and most successful of the 15 IARIs. In recognition of Bentley's contributions, ICRISAT, in 2001, designated its conference room as the "Dr. C. Fred Bentley Conference Centre."

During the 1970s and 1980s, Bentley did many short term international consultancies for agencies such as Canada's CIDA, the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations, the World Bank, Rockfound (an arm of the Rockefeller Foundation), and the United States Agency for International Development.

Bentley was active in professional agriculture organizations. He served as President of the Alberta Institute of Agrologists, the Canadian Society of Soil Science, the Agricultural Institute of Canada and the International Society of Soil Science (a four year term). He was also, for five years, the first Chair of the Board of Trustees for the International Board for Soil Research and Management (IBSRAM) headquartered in Bangkok, Thailand.

Bentley has received more than thirty awards in recognition of his efforts and contributions. They include:

- An Officer of the Order of Canada;
- A Member of the Alberta Order of Excellence;
- Honorary Doctor degrees from the Universities of Alberta and Guelph;
- Fellowships in seven professional societies (four of them non-Canadian);
- The H. H. Bennett Award made once yearly by the Soil and Water Conservation Society of America; and
- The Outstanding Achievement Award of the University of Minnesota.

Although it is 26 years since Bentley was designated Professor Emeritus of Soil Science by the University of Alberta, he continues to be deeply involved in agricultural activities related to the University of Alberta. In recognition of Helen Bentley's contributions to Home Economics, the Alberta Home Economics Association has established a bursary in her honor at the University of Alberta.

Helen and Fred Bentley have made major donations, in their joint names, to the Edmonton Community Foundation, the University of Alberta and the International Development Research Centre.

AWARDS, FELLOWSHIPS AND HONORS

C. F. Bentley

- 1937 Prize for highest standing, 1st year class in Agriculture, University of Alberta
- 1960 Outstanding Achievement Award, University of Minnesota *
- 1962 Fellowship, American Association for Advancement of Science *
- 1964 Honorary Chief, Stony Indians of Morley, Alberta
- 1967 Centennial Medal of Canada
- 1970 Fellowship, Agricultural Institute of Canada
- 1974-78 President, International Society of Soil Science *
- 1975 Fellowship, Canadian Society of Soil Science
- 1976 Fellowship, American Society of Soil Science *
- 1976 Fellowship, American Society of Agronomy *
- 1977 Queen's Silver Jubilee Medal
- 1977 Fellowship, Royal Society of Canada
- 1979 Premier's personal "Alberta Achievement Award" made to one person per year in the professions
- 1979 Awarded title of "Professor Emeritus of Soil Science" by the University of Alberta
- 1980 Honorary lifetime membership in PAL (Preserve Agricultural Land), a community group at Lacombe, Alberta, dedicated to minimization of unnecessary conversions of prime agricultural land to non-agricultural uses
- 1981-82 Klinck Lecturer, Agricultural Institute of Canada (at 18 Branches across Canada)
- 1982 Winegard Visiting Professor, University of Guelph (one month)
- 1982 Agronomy Merit Award, made once a year in the Prairie Provinces by four of the largest farmer cooperatives from nominations received from the Institutes of Agrology
- 1983 Awarded the title "Chairman Emeritus" of the ICRISAT Governing Board *
- 1984 Honor Award, Soil Conservation Society of America *
- 1984 Honorary D.Sc., University of Guelph
- 1985 Elected to the Alberta Agricultural Hall of Fame
- 1986 Honorary Life Membership, Alberta Chapter, Soil Conservation Society of America
- 1987 Honorary Vice-President, Soil Conservation Canada
- 1987 Alberta Order of Excellence (highest honor awarded by the Alberta Government)
- 1988 Awarded the title of "Chairman Emeritus of the IBSRAM Board of Trustees" *
- 1989 Honorary Membership, World Association of Soil and Water Conservation *
- 1989 H. H. Bennett Award of Soil and Water Conservation Society *
- 1990 Honorary D.Sc., University of Alberta
- 1991 Inducted into Canadian Conservation Hall of Fame
- 1992 Awarded Fellowship in the Indian National Academy of Agricultural Sciences *
- 1992 Recipient of the "International Recognition Award" of the Agricultural Institute of Canada, being one of the initial three recipients of that award
- 1993 Recipient of Canada's Commemorative Medal for the 125th Anniversary of Canadian Confederation
- 1993 Distinguished Agrologist Award of the Alberta Institute of Agrologists
- 1993 Recipient of an engraved plaque from the International Board for Soil Research and Management "for distinguished contributions" at a dinner in his honor *
- 1993 Recipient of a Robert Bateman wildlife print as an expression of appreciation of contributions as a member of the Organizing Committee for an International Sustainable Land Management Workshop held at University of Lethbridge
- 1994 Appointed an Officer of the Order of Canada
- 1997 Saskatchewan Institute of Agrologists: Recognition Award
- 2001 Recognition by Canada House of Commons: International Year of Volunteers
- 2001 ICRISAT (at Hyderabad, India) conference room designated as "Dr. C. Fred Bentley Conference Centre" *
- 2002 Recipient of University of Alberta Alumni Award
- 2004 Ecological preserve at the Breton Plots named "Fred Bentley Ecological Preserve" by University of Alberta
- 2006 Growing Alberta – CIBC "Distinguished Service" Award – for the advancement of agricultural science in Alberta, Canada, and the World

* International awards