



INTERNATIONAL
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**Message from Dame Pauline Green
President
International Co-operative Alliance**



It was with profound sorrow and regret that I learnt of the death of Mr. Surinder Kumar Jakhar, an esteemed member of the Board of Directors of the International Co-operative Alliance, at his house in Punjab, India on 17 January.

Mr. Surinder Kumar Jakhar was elected to the Global Board of ICA at our General Assembly in Singapore in 2007, and served as Chair of our Audit & Risk Committee and more recently our Governance Committee. He was a prominent member of ICA's Asia-Pacific Region, and the man who brought the successful ICA Expo to Bangalore just four weeks ago.

Over an illustrious career Mr. Jakhar worked for more than three decades to improve the lives of the rural poor through co-operatives. He championed the cause of agricultural co-operation in India, and was a committed supporter of the International Co-operative Alliance and the world wide co-operative movement. He was only 58 at the time of his death.

Mr. Jakhar was a man who had only just begun his career on the worldwide co-operative stage and had much more to contribute in that role. His untimely death has robbed the co-operative movement of a courageous man of integrity and principle, and a man who believed in changing the world for the better through the positive engagement and participation of local people in co-operative enterprise. He will be a hard man to replace.

As Chair of the Indian Farmers' Fertiliser Co-operative Organisation (IFFCO), he interacted with more than 55 million farmers through membership of more than 38,000 co-operatives. He was Chair of Indo-Egyptian Fertiliser Company; IFFCO Chhattisgarh Power Ltd., IFFCO Kisan Sewa Trust; IFFCO Kissan Sanchar Ltd, IFFCO Kisan International, IFFCO Kisan Bazar, IFFCO Kisan SEZ, founder Chair of IFFCO-TKIO Insurance and Director of the IFFCO Foundation.

He will be sorely missed by co-operators throughout the world. As Chair of the Board, I will miss his sound advice, enthusiasm and commitment to our shared cause, and on a personal level his charm, warmth and quiet sense of humour.

On behalf of my fellow Board members and the staff of the ICA, I send our heartfelt condolences to his family, friends and colleagues at this sad time.