

IPNI Highlights Excellence During Awards Ceremony at 2014 Research Cooperators' Meeting

A biography for each Award recipients is provided below.



Dr. A.K. Srivastava, National Research Center for Citrus, Nagpur, Maharashtra – Dr. A.K. Srivastava received his M.Sc. (Ag) and Ph.D in Soil Science from the Banaras Hindu University in 1984 and 1988, respectively. Dr. Srivastava is Principal Scientist (Soil Science) at Indian Council of Agricultural Research - National Research Centre for Citrus, Nagpur. He has been extensively working on different aspects of citrus nutrient management over the last 25 years. His specific areas of research interest are soil-plant nutrient diagnostics, site specific nutrient management, microbiology of citrus rhizosphere, soil carbon loading and microbial turnover of nutrients, fertigation scheduling through partitioning of nutrients and water vis-à-vis crop phenology, and nutrient mapping using geospatial tools.

He is credited with 92 Research Papers and 30 Policy Review Papers in International and National Journals. Dr. Srivastava received the S. N. Ranade Award for Excellence in Micronutrient Research, FAI Silver Jubilee Award, and the International Plant Nutrition Institute-FAI Award. He has authored a book Citrus: Soil and Climate, Citrus Nutrition published by IBDC, Lucknow, and is the Editor of a book entitled Advances in Citrus Nutrition by Springer-Verlag, The Netherlands. He is a member of Editorial Boards of the Journal of Plant Nutrition, Communications in Soil Science and Plant Analysis, and is an Associate Editor of the Agronomy Journal. He is the fellow of 9 professional academic societies including Indian Society of Soil Science. Dr. Srivastava has been a collaborator of IPNI for over 15 years.



Dr. B.S. Dwivedi, Indian Agricultural Research Institute, New Delhi – Dr. B.S. Dwivedi did his M.Sc. and Ph.D. in Soil Science and Agricultural Chemistry from CS Azad University of Agriculture & Technology, Kanpur. He was a brilliant student, who secured first position in U.P. Board during SSC Examination, and then in the University during his graduation. After joining Agricultural Research Service of the ICAR, he served at ICAR Res. Complex for NEH Region, Shillong (now at Barapani), PDFSR, Modipuram, and IARI, New Delhi. At present, he is the Head, Division of Soil Science and Agri. Chemistry, Indian Agricultural Research Institute.

During his professional career of over 28 years, Dr. Dwivedi made original research contributions in the area of soil fertility and nutrient management in intensive cropping systems. Important areas of his research interest are: restoration and improvement of soil health under rice-wheat system, site-specific nutrient management, conservation agriculture, and soil testing. Dr. Dwivedi has been associated with IPNI for over 15 years through several research and extension programs. Dr. Dwivedi's outstanding contributions have been recognised through NAAS Fellowship, Dr. J.S.P. Yadav Memorial Award for Excellence in Soil Science, IPNI-FAI Award (2004 and 2014), and TSI-FAI Award (1989). He is Chief Editor of the Journal of the Indian Society of Soil Science.



Dr. D.P. Biradar, University of Agricultural Sciences, Dharwad, Karnataka – Dr. D. P. Biradar is the Vice Chancellor of the University of Agricultural Sciences (UAS), Dharwad, Karnataka. Dr. Biradar did his B.Sc. (Ag.) and M.Sc. (Ag) at the UAS, Dharwad, Karnataka, and received his Ph.D. at the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign, USA, in 1993. Dr. Biradar's areas of research interest are transgenic crops, molecular diversity of plant species, farming systems research and site specific nutrient management of important crops of Northern Karnataka. Dr. Biradar is closely associated with IPNI for more than 15 years and has contributed significantly in the development and dissemination of site specific nutrient management in rice, wheat, maize, sugarcane and cotton. Dr. Biradar is associated with the IPNI Global Maize Project and development and dissemination of the Nutrient Expert® Decision Support Tool for rice, wheat and maize. Dr. Biradar's contribution was recognised through several awards, including the Sir C. V. Raman Award for Young Scientist (2002); Dr. A.P.J. Abdul Kalam National Award (2008); Konda Laxman Bapuji Award (2008). Dr. Biradar is Fellow of the National Environmental Science Academy (2005); International Benevolent Research Forum (2007); and the National Academy of Biological Sciences (2007).



Dr. M.L. Jat, International Maize and Wheat Improvement Center (CIMMYT), New Delhi – Dr. M.L. Jat obtained his B. Sc. (Ag) and M. Sc (Ag) from Rajasthan Agricultural University, and his Ph. D. from the Indian Agricultural Research Institute (IARI), New Delhi. He is currently the Senior Cropping Systems Agronomist & CIMMYT-CCAFS South Asia Coordinator, Global Conservation Agriculture Program of International Maize and Wheat Improvement Centre (CIMMYT). Dr. Jat contributed to the development and deployment of Conservation Agriculture and precision agriculture based management technologies, climate resilient practices and capacity development to several thousand farmers and stakeholders in South Asia. He has published over 200 peer-reviewed journal articles (including a recent paper in NATURE CLIMATE CHANGE), book chapters, bulletins, reviews, symposia proceedings & abstracts. An Associate Fellow of the National Academy of Agricultural Sciences (NAAS), and Fellow of the Indian Society of Agronomy (ISA), he has received the IPNI-FAI award for Best Research on Management and balanced use of inputs in achieving maximum yield and several other recognitions. Dr Jat has been associated closely with IPNI for development, validation and dissemination of Nutrient Expert® decision support tools for rice, wheat and maize.



Dr. Rakesh Kumar, Birsa Agricultural University, Ranchi, Jharkhand – Dr. Rakesh Kumar, is currently Professor of Soil Science and Agricultural Chemistry at the Faculty of Agriculture, Birsa Agricultural University, Ranchi, Jharkhand. Dr. Kumar received his B. Sc (Ag), M. Sc. (Ag) and Ph. D. from the Birsa Agricultural University, Ranchi, Jharkhand. Dr. Kumar has been involved with IPNI in plant nutrition research and extension activities in Jharkhand for more than 15 years and is Principal Investigator for the IPNI Global Maize research project at Ranchi. He has contributed significantly to the development and dissemination of the maize and wheat Nutrient Expert® in Jharkhand through farmer participatory activities. Dr. Kumar's other research interests include assessment of nutrient and pollutant status in Jharkhand soils, nutrient management in acid soils and improved management of agro-forestry in Jharkhand. Dr. Kumar has more than 30 research publications in reputed journals.



Dr. Sushanta Kumar Pattanayak, Orissa University of Agriculture & Technology, Bhubaneswar, Odisha – Dr. Sushanta Kumar Pattanayak is currently Professor at the Department of Soil Science & Agricultural Chemistry, Orissa University of Agriculture & Technology, Odisha. Dr. Pattanayak received his doctoral degree from the Indian Agricultural Research Institute, New Delhi, in 1991. Dr. Pattanayak's research interest is in soil fertility, fertiliser and bio-fertiliser use in crops, and site-specific nutrient management in crops and cropping systems in the acid soils of Odisha. Dr. Pattanayak, through his research and extension work in soil fertility management, has made significant contribution in the lives of tribal communities in resource poor areas of Odisha. His work has improved crop yields and economics of production and improved the livelihood of farmers in smallholder systems. Dr. Pattanayak has been associated with IPNI for over 15 years and has published more than fifty research and extension publications in the national and international journals. Dr. Pattanayak is a key partner of IPNI in the development and dissemination of the fertiliser decision support tools for rice and maize in Odisha.



Dr. Vinay Singh, R.B.S. College, Agra, Uttar Pradesh – Dr. Vinay Singh was born in Tajpur, Mathura (U.P.) on 10 July 1945 in a farmer's family. He completed his graduation in 1965, acquired Doctorate in 1978 and Post doctorate in 1991 from Agra University, Agra. He started his professional career in J.V. College Baraut, (Meerut) and later joined B.R. College (now known as R.B.S. College) Agra in September, 1970. He continued on various positions in this college till his superannuation in June, 2008. He guided research work of number of post graduate and doctoral students. He had over 250 publications to his credit including several books, technical bulletins and research articles published in national and international journals of repute. He is recipient of several awards including TSI - FAI Award in 1994 for outstanding research on Sulphur, S.N. Ranade Memorial Award in 2000 for excellence in micronutrients research and FAI Award for best publication. He has contributed significantly in the field of soil fertility and plant nutrition and has been a long-term cooperator of IPNI in several research projects. Dr. Singh has made significant contributions in the development and dissemination of Nutrient Expert® decision support tool in Uttar Pradesh.



Dr. V.K. Singh, ICAR-Indian Institute of Farming Systems Research, Modipuram, Uttar Pradesh – Dr. V.K. Singh obtained his Ph D from GBPUAT, Pantnagar in 1999. Dr. Singh is currently ICAR National Fellow and Principal Scientist at ICAR-Indian Institute of Farming Systems Research, Modipuram, India, and has made significant contributions in developing site-specific nutrient management strategies for crops and cropping systems, and using GIS for soil fertility and resource utilisation mapping to ensure precision in fertiliser recommendation in India. Extensive on-station and on-farm studies conducted by him helped in the development of improved nutrient management strategies for cereal-based cropping systems for improving crop productivity and for enhancing nutrient use efficiency. Adoption of his findings through extensive educational activities helped the farmers in improving soil health and productivity of important cropping systems of the Indo-Gangetic Plains. Dr. Singh has been a cooperator of IPNI for over 10 years and has significantly contributed to the dissemination of improved nutrient management practices among Indian farmers. Dr. Singh is a significant partner in the development of the cropping system based Nutrient Expert® fertiliser decision support tool in India.



Dr. Y.R. Aladakatti, University of Agricultural Sciences, Dharwad, Karnataka – Dr. Y.R. Aladakatti is currently Professor and Principal Scientist (Agronomy) at All India Coordinated Cotton Improvement Project, Agricultural Research Station, University of Agricultural Sciences (UAS), Dharwad. Dr. Aladakatti received his B. Sc. (Ag) at UAS, Dharwad, M. Sc. (Ag) at UAS, Bangalore and Ph. D. in Agronomy at UAS, Dharwad. He has served in the Department of Agriculture, Govt. of Karnataka, for 13 years before joining as an Assistant Professor at the UAS, Dharwad. Dr. Aladakatti has done significant research in water management of crops and cropping sequences and contributed to the development of irrigation strategies for major field and horticultural crops in Northern Karnataka. He has been associated with IPNI in the development of site-specific nutrient management strategies for transgenic cotton. He is the Principal Investigator of the IPNI Global Maize Project at Dharwad. Dr. Aladakatti is also involved in the IPNI effort to develop and disseminate fertiliser decision support tools for rice, wheat, maize, cotton and soybean. He has contributed over 90 scientific publications in national and international journals. Dr. Aladakatti is also closely involved in the transfer of agro-technologies and their impact assessment amongst the farming community through field demonstrations, field days, trainings, field visits, radio and TV talks and technical bulletins.