

Important Staff Changes for IPNI India Programme

The International Plant Nutrition Institute (IPNI) has announced a series of significant changes to the India Programme staff. The announcement came from IPNI President Dr. Terry L. Roberts and Dr. Adrian Johnston, IPNI Vice President, Asia and Oceania Group.

Effective January 1, 2009, **Dr. Kaushik Majumdar** will be appointed to the position of Director of the India Programme. Dr. Majumdar succeeds **Dr. K.N. Tiwari**, who served as Director of the India Programme since 1998 and retires from IPNI effective December 31, 2008. IPNI leaders also announce the appointment of two new Deputy Directors in India. **Dr. Harmandeep Singh Khurana** will have responsibility in India-West Zone, while **Dr. T. Satyanarayana** will work in India-South Zone and Sri Lanka. **Dr. T. Nagendra Rao** resigned from the India Programme staff in October 2008.



Dr. Majumdar

Soil Chemistry in 1993. Dr. Majumdar returned to BCKV as a research associate in 1994, and then joined the Potash Research Institute of India from 1995 to 1999 where he worked on K mineralogy and dynamics in Indian soils. Since joining IPNI, Dr. Majumdar has been based in Kolkata and actively involved in all aspects of program activities in eastern India and Bangladesh.



Dr. Khurana

Nutrition, in the Department of Crop and Soil Environmental Sciences at Virginia Tech, Blacksburg. In that responsibility, he modified and tested a soil-water-plant-atmosphere simula-

Dr. Majumdar is a native of West Bengal and has served as IPNI Deputy Director, India-East Zone, since 1999. He received his B.Sc.(Ag) Hons. degree from Visva-Bharati University in 1984, M.Sc. (Ag) in Agriculture Chemistry and Soil Science from Bidhan Chandra Krishi Viswavidyalaya (BCKV) in 1987, and Ph.D. from Rutgers University in Soil Mineralogy and

Dr. Khurana officially joined the staff of IPNI as Deputy Director, India Program-West Zone, effective July 1, 2008. He received his Ph.D. in 2005 in Soils at Punjab Agricultural University (PAU), in Ludhiana, India. He earlier earned his Masters degree in 2001 and B.S. in 1999 at the same university. From 2006 until 2008, Dr. Khurana was Postdoctoral Associate, Soil Fertility and Plant

tion model related to site-specific management and analyzed the fate of excess N in soil and water. From 2005 to 2006, he served on the staff at PAU as an Assistant Professor, Soil Fertility and Plant Nutrition, with 100% research responsibility. Dr. Khurana has received numerous awards and recognition for academic and research achievements, and is the author or co-author of several research publications.



Dr. Satyanarayana

Most recently, Dr. Satyanarayana was Deputy Manager-Business Development & Agri Technical Services, with Shriram Fertilizers & Chemicals, DSCL. In that role, he was involved with identifying emerging trends in agriculture and other allied businesses, imparting training, developing publications and coordinating the functioning of 110 Shriram Krishi Vikas Kendras (SKVKs). From 2005 to 2007, he worked as Deputy Manager-Regulatory Affairs, with Coromandel Fertilisers Ltd. in Hyderabad. Dr. Satyanarayana was also a Senior Research Fellow at IARI from 2001 to 2002 and worked on projects related to the rice-wheat cropping system. He is author or co-author of several research publications.



Dr. Tiwari

Dr. Tiwari joined the staff of the PPI/PPIC (now IPNI) India Programme as Deputy Director in June 1998 and was named Director on July 1, 1998. During his 10 years with PPI/PPIC and IPNI, Dr. Tiwari provided leadership in developing information on fertiliser management practices in India which can be readily transferred to farmers to improve yield, quality, and profitability. He also provided training opportunities for scientists, extension workers, fertiliser industry personnel, agricultural students, farmers, and children. A prolific writer, Dr. Tiwari released a large number of scientific and extension publications on the impact of balanced fertiliser use on crop production, profitability, and food security in India. **BC INDIA**

Introduction to this Special Issue

Welcome... You are reading the second issue of *BETTER CROPS-INDIA*, first introduced in December 2007 and published by the International Plant Nutrition Institute (IPNI). Following a similar style as our popular quarterly publication, *Better Crops with Plant Food*, this special publication is the result of considerable effort by the IPNI India Programme staff and other cooperators.

We at IPNI wish to congratulate and thank the many cooperators, researchers, government officials, farmers, industry representatives, and others who are working in a positive mode for progress in India. — Dr. Terry L. Roberts, President, IPNI