

Dr Bir Pal Singh

(b. July 1, 1953)

Former Director, ICAR-Central Potato Research Institute, Shimla – 171 001 (HP) E-mail address: bps_cpric@yahoo.co.in A plant pathologist by profession, Dr Singh specializes in fungal pathology and has made significant contribution in the field of potato late blight caused by *Phytophthora infestans*. For the first time he demonstrated that Indian Potato Association Hand Book 66 *P. infestans* in India is able to reproduce sexually resulting in the formation of thick-walled oospores, which serves as primary source of potato late blight both in Indian hills and subtropical plains. He has also developed a computerized late blight forecasting system known as 'JHULSACAST' for North-western plains. His work has led to development of the late blight resistant cultivars Kufri Giriraj, Kufri Shailja and Kufri Himalini for hilly regions. As a pathologist, he has also contributed towards the selection and release of three varieties viz., Kufri Arun, Kufri Surya and Kufri Chipsona-3. He has more than 95 research papers, 5 bulletins and 7 books besides several other publications. Dr. Singh is a recipient of several awards which include Hari Om Ashram trust award (2002-2003) of ICAR, New Delhi and Prof. M.J. Narsimhan Medal by Indian Phytopathological Society (1991). He has served IPA in different positions.