

Dr. Devendra Kumar

(b. 5 September, 1962)

Principal Scientist, ICAR-CPRS, Modipuram, Meerut, U.P. drdev24@gmail.com Dr. Devendra Kumar is Principal Scientist (Plant Physiology) and working as Joint Director (Acting) at CPRI Campus, Modipuram, Meerut (UP). During his academics he has been awarded University meritScholarship during M. Phil., qualified UGC-NET (Life Sciences) fellowship in 1984 and received Junior and Senior Research Scholarship at IARI during Ph.D. He has twenty six years experience in potato research and development activities specially in developing India's first potato processing varieties i.e. Kufri Chipsona-1 and Kufri Chipsona-2. This contribution was well recognized in the council and conferred ICAR-Team Research Award (biennial 1997-98). Dr. Kumar played major role in the development of first heat tolerant potato variety "Kufri Surya" in India. Consequently, potato made inroads into the non-conventional regions and seasons in the country Dr. Kumar was bestowed with 2nd ICAR-Team Research Award (biennial 2007-08) for this trait specific variety and IPA Gold Medal for best paper in Potato Journal (2008). Besides, two advance hybrids (HT/07-1105 for heat tolerance and WS/05-146 for drought tolerance) are in multi-location trials under AICRP (Potato). He established that calcium as a supplementary nutrient through soil improves yield and quality of potatoes grown under heat stress. He was Co-PI of World Bank funded NAIP project "Value chain on potato and potato products (2008-2013) and attempted to develop supply chain on specialty potatoes (antioxidant rich, baby potatoes etc.) NCR. He has been visiting scholar to Michigan State University, USA for exposure on antioxidants enrichment techniques. He worked as Associated Scientist in ICAR-Adhoc project In-vitro mutagenesis of potato to induce dwarfness for enhancing partition of dry matter to tubers under long days and high temperature (2004-2007); and in CIP sponsored project "Expanding utilization of potatoes in developing countries; sub-project-Rustic stores for ware potato storage (1994-1997). Indian Potato Association Hand Book 48 He has 71 national/international publications to his credit including 28 research papers, 15 popular articles, 2 book chapters, edited one conference proceeding and attended more than 25 conferences/ seminars. He has guided three M.Sc. and two Ph. D. students and is on the panel of external examiners in IARI Delhi and CCSU Meerut. To strengthen the CPRI Campus Modipuram, Dr. Kumar was identified to work as head of the newly created section of Crop Physiology, Biochemistry and PHT in 2000. He has several peer recognitions viz., IPA Councillor, Member of editorial board, Associate editor, reviewer, etc. in reputed journals i.e. Indian Journal of Plant Physiology (ISPPARI), Potato Journal (IPA-ICAR, Shimla) and Journal of Food Science & Technology (Mysore).