

**Dr. Vinod Kumar**

(b. July 18, 1967)

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Dr. Vinod Kumar, a plant Breeder, started his career as Scientist at NRC for Oil Palm, Pedavegi, Andhra Pradesh in December 1996. Later he joined Central Potato Research Station, Kufri, Shimla Hills in 1998 and contributed in research and infrastructure development at the station upto June, 2017. Presently he is working in Project Coordinator Unit at CPRI, Shimla. He has been mainly involved in augmentation of genetic variability and evaluation / characterization of available potato germplasm. He was involved with the development of Five potato varieties namely Kufri Lalit, Kufri Mohan, Kufri Ganga, Kufri Neelkanth, Kufri Lima and five genetic stocks of potato which have been registered at the national level. He was also involved in the development of morphological descriptors for distinctness, uniformity and stability tests of new varieties for registration as per UPOV guidelines. In recognition of his research contribution, his team has been conferred with Dr. S. Ramanujam Award (2012-15) for contribution in Potato Research and Development in India. He has so far over 60 research papers in referred journals, besides many popular articles, book chapters, and bulletin etc. He is the fellow of Indian Potato Association and life member of Indian Potato Association, Indian Society of Plant Genetic Resources, The Horticultural Society of India and Indian Society of Agricultural Sciences. He has attended three international training programmes one each in South America, UK and Germany.