



Dr. Ashwani Kumar Sharma

(b. August 21, 1969)

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Dr. Ashwani Kumar Sharma, started his career as Scientist at Central Potato Research Station (CPRS) - Kufri, Shimla, HP in September, 1997. From 1998 onwards, he was made In-charge of Fagu farm of CPRS-Kufri, where he was exclusively associated with production of Nucleus and breeder seed stocks of potato for the hilly regions of India. From 2017, he was Head, Central Potato Research Station -Kufri. With the merger of Kufri Station with CPRI (HQ) Shimla during Dec., 2020; he is presently working as Scientist In-charge, Kufri-Fagu Unit. He has contributed immensely in research and overall development of Kufri-Fagu, especially in creating infrastructure and introduction of Hi-tech seed potato production. He has standardized the Agro-techniques for the effective multiplication of Hi-tech planting material viz. micro-tubers/ micro-plants and aeroponic tubers under controlled and field conditions in the hilly zone. He has been instrumental in devising and executing the Potato Cyst Nematode management strategy at the field level and also in developing the Seed Treatment Technique against PCN. Beside breeder seed potato production, presently he is also associated with other research projects mainly pertaining to evaluation / characterization of Potato Genetic Resources and various other Crop Improvement related activities at Kufri. He was associated in the development of potato variety Kufri Karan and four genetic stocks of potato which have been registered at the national level. He has also attended 10 weeks International Training Course on “Potato Production, Storage and Seed” at International Agriculture Centre, Wageningen, *The Netherlands*, during, 2003. In recognition of his contribution, his team was conferred with “*ICAR Award for Team Research*” for the outstanding research contribution in the field of *Potato Seed*, for the bi-annum 2001-03. So far, he has to his credit over 40 research papers in referred journals besides many popular articles, book chapters, and technical bulletins etc. He has received Best Research Paper and many Best Poster Awards. He is the life member of Indian Potato Association.