



Dr. S. M. Paul Khurana

(b. December 31, 1944)

Dr. Satyendra Mohan Paul Khurana was born on 31st December 1944 at Jalna, Maharashtra. After his graduation in the year 1963 from the University of Gorakhpur, Uttar Pradesh, he obtained M.Sc. (Plant Pathology) in the year 1965 and Ph. D. (Virus Pathology) under the guidance of Prof. Dr K. S. Bhargava, in the year 1968 from the same University. He did two years' (1970-72) post-doctoral work on Advanced Plant Virology at Kyushu University, Fukuoka (Japan). He also worked at University of Minnesota, St. Paul (USA) on immunodiagnosics during a sabbatical of one year (1987-88). Dr Khurana started his scientific career as Junior Scientist (Pathology) at Sugarcane Breeding Institute, Coimbatore and served there for six months in the year 1970. He joined Central Potato Research Institute, Shimla as CSIR Pool Research Officer in April, 1973 after completing his Post Doc. in Japan. He was absorbed as Scientist S1 in December 1974 and continued at ICAR-CPRI, Shimla in different capacity till November 2004, when he joined as Vice- Chancellor of Rani Durgavati Vishwavidyalaya, Jabalpur, Madhya Pradesh. He became Head, Division of Plant Pathology in October, 1988; Project Coordinator, AICRP (Potato) in the year 1994 and Director, ICAR-CPRI in January, 2002. During 2002-2004, he held the dual charges of Project Coordinator (AICRP-Potato) and Director, ICAR-CPRI. Dr. Khurana is a Fellow of National Academy of Agricultural Sciences, New Delhi; National Academy of Biological Sciences, Chennai (India) and Distinguished Fellow of the Indian Potato Association. He held prestigious positions in various professional societies like Indian Potato Association (President for three terms, Editor-in-Chief for three terms and Secretary for one term); Aphidological Society (Vice President for one term and Editor for two terms); Indian Virology Society (Editor-in-Chief for two terms and Editor for one term); Indian Phytopathological Society (President for one term, Editor for three years). He also held several international assignments like Resource Person, Virology Planning Conference, CIP, Lima, Peru; Consultant, CIP-Helvetas, BNPP, Bhutan; Chairman, Plant Protection Session, Asian Potato Conference, Indonesia; Consultant, FAO/IPGRI Meeting, Edinburgh; Special Speaker, International Conference on Tospoviruses, The Netherlands; Keynote Speaker, African Triennial Conference on Potato, Uganda. He also played a key role in several national and international committees. During his long research career, Dr. Khurana made persistent effort for refinement and up gradation of virus detection and diagnostics. He and his team standardized use of the ELISA procedure in the year 1984 and started preparing indigenous ELISA kits by 1990. He also contributed in the development of ISEM technique for virus detection. Under his leadership, the institute perfected nucleic acid based virus detection techniques. He also contributed in cloning of several viral genes and their use in development of transgenic potato with pathogen derived resistance. He developed simple and effective laboratory techniques for screening of resistance to viruses and aphids. He also contributed in development of IDM schedules for potato virus diseases, late blight, soil and tuber borne diseases thereby reducing pesticide usage. He handled several research projects funded by ICAR, CSIR, DBT, CIP, PL-480, etc including a few International collaborative research schemes. As the Project Coordinator, he recommended release of ten potato varieties. Besides, he was involved in selection of four new potato varieties namely Kufri Arun, Kufri Shailja, Kufri Pushkar and Kufri Surya. Dr. Khurana was awarded ICAR-CPRI Golden Jubilee Outstanding Achievements Award (2000); Best Scientist of the Year (2002) Award; Dr. S.

Ramanujam Memorial Award for Outstanding research & Leadership in Potato R & D and several others. Dr. Khurana has published over 130 research papers in journals of repute and authored more than 75 reviews/book chapters. He guided ten Ph.D. students. Dr. Khurana is a widely traveled scientist and visited Bhutan, Canada, France, Japan, Peru, Scotland, The Netherlands, Uganda UK, USA, etc.