



Dr. S.K. Pandey

(b. June 26, 1948)

Dr. Suman Kumar Pandey was born on 26th June 1948 at village Chhibramau, Farrukhabad, Uttar Pradesh. After graduation from Lucknow University, Lucknow in the year 1968, he did M.Sc. (Botany) from the same University in the year 1970. He did M.Phil (Agril. Botany) from Meerut University, Meerut in the year 1988 and obtained his Ph.D. (Agril Botany) under the guidance of Prof. P.K. Gupta from the Institute of Advanced Studies, CS University, Meerut in 1993. Dr. Pandey started his career as Research Assistant at Central Potato Research Station, Bhowali on 11th January 1971 and was absorbed as Scientist S1 on 1st July 1976. He became Head, Division of Crop Improvement on 3rd November 2001 and Director, Central Potato Research Institute on 20th May 2005 and continued till 2010. Dr. Pandey is the Fellow of the National Academy of Agricultural Sciences; Distinguished Fellow of the Indian Potato Association; and Fellow of the Horticultural Society of India. He is a member of several other scientific societies like National Academy of Sciences, Allahabad; Vegetable Society of India, Varanasi; and Indian Society of Genetics and Plant Breeding, New Delhi. He held several responsible positions in national and international committees like Member Secretary of Planning Commission's Sub-group on Planting Material under Horticulture, Plantation Crops and Organic Farming for formulation of XI Five Year plan; Member, Board of Management, Dr. Y. S. Parmar University of Horticulture and Forestry, Nauni, Solan, Himachal Pradesh; Member, Governing Board, Himachal Pradesh Seed and Organic Produce Certification Agency, Shimla; Member, National Biodiversity Authority (NBA), Chennai; Member, International Advisory Committee, World Potato Congress Inc., Canada; Consultant & Member of Task Force for Protection of Plant Varieties and Farmers' Right Authority for preparation of DUS guidelines for vegetable crops. He also played a key role in organization of several national and international conferences like Global Conference on Potato, 1999; National Symposium on "Sustainability of potato revolution in India", 2001; and National Conference on IPR and Management of Agricultural Research, 2005. He was Joint Secretary of the Indian Potato Association during 1987-1992; Secretary during 1994-95; Editor-in-Chief of Potato Journal from 2002-2005; President of Indian Potato Association from 2006-2009 and Vice-President-Horticultural Society of India. He was the Chairman, National Organizing Committee, Global Potato Conference 2008. During his long research career, Dr. Pandey contributed significantly in the area of potato breeding, especially for disease resistance, processing, heat tolerance and TPS technology. His dynamic leadership in the field of breeding for processing grade varieties resulted in quick development of a number of suitable varieties like Kufri Chipsona 1, Kufri Chipsona 2, Kufri Chipsona 3, Kufri Himsona and technologies for production of processing grade potatoes under sub-tropical condition that started a revolution in the potato processing sector in India. He also actively participated in the development of varieties like Kufri Giriraj, Kufri Sutlej, Kufri Jawahar and Kufri Pukhraj, Kufri Shailja, Kufri Pushkar, Kufri Arun, Kufri Himalini and the first ever heat tolerant variety Kufri Surya that has the potential to mitigate the ill effects of global warming on potato cultivation. The TPS progeny 92-PT-27 developed by his group is gaining popularity in India and abroad. He has also identified and registered eight elite potato germplasm that have strengthened the potato varietal improvement schemes and patented a technology for micro-tuber production. He has published more than 138 research papers in national and international journals, almost equal number in proceedings

of seminars/symposia or popular scientific magazines and authored/edited nine books. He received several awards including the prestigious Rafi Ahmed Kidwai Award of ICAR; Dr. S. Ramanujam Memorial Award; Dr. L.C. Sikka Endowment Award from National Academy of Agricultural Sciences; Dr. J.C. Anand Gold Medal from Horticulture Society of India etc.