



Dr. B.P. Singh

(b. July 1, 1953)

Dr. Bir Pal Singh was born on 1st July, 1953 at Bulandshahar, Uttar Pradesh. He did his Masters in Botany (Plant Pathology) with Gold Medal in the year 1976 and Ph.D. Botany (Plant Pathology) with UGC Fellowship in the year 1982 from Aligarh Muslim University. Dr. Singh started his career as Scientist at Central Potato Research Institute, Shimla in the year 1977 and continued in that position till 1983; as Scientist S-2 till 1985; Senior Scientist from 1986 to 1998; Principal Scientist from 1998 to 2000. Dr Singh took over as Joint Director, ICAR-CPRI Campus, Modipuram, Meerut in October, 2000 and continued till June, 2010. Since then, he played a pivotal role in development of this institute and became its Director in July 2010. He was President (2010-11, 2012-13, 2014-15); Vice-President (2004-05, 2006-07); Secretary (1996-97, 1998-99); and Business Editor (1987-1995) of Indian Potato Association. He also served as Councillor (NZ), Indian Phytopathological Society during 1996 and Editor (Mycology), Indian Phytopathological Society during 1996-1998. He is a Fellow of the National Academy of Agricultural Sciences; Distinguished Fellow of Indian Potato Association, Indian Phytopathological Society, and Indian Horticultural Society. He was also member of several national and international committees like Board of Trustees of CIP; Steering Committee for Global Initiative on late blight, CIP, Lima Peru; Member of the Indian delegation led by Horticulture Commissioner, Department of Agriculture & Cooperation; Member, Board of Management, Dr. Y. S. Parmar University of Horticulture and Forestry, Nauni, Solan, Himachal Pradesh; Member, Board of Management, SVP, Meerut, Uttar Pradesh, and Member, Board of Management, SKUAT, J & K. Member, International Advisory Committee, World Potato Congress Inc., Canada; Member, Programme, Planning and Policy Committee of PPV & FRA. He also played a key role in organization of several national and international conferences like Global Conference on Potato, 1999 & 2008; National consultation on “Production of Disease Free Quality Planting Material Propagated through Tubers and Rhizomes” in 2011; National Conference on “Genomics for Sustainable Food and Nutritional Security” in 2011; National Consultation on “Potato Research and Development: Way Forward” in 2012; Workshop on “Problems and Prospects of Seed Potato Production System in India” in 2013; National seminar on “Emerging Problems of Potato” in 2014; and National Level Agriculture Fair “Eastern Zone Regional Agriculture Fair” in 2015. Dr. Singh did pioneering work on etiology, epidemiology, histopathology and resistance breeding of potato diseases. His main contribution is in the field of late blight management for which he created a state-of-the-art facilities. He, for the first time, reported sexuality in *Phytophthora infestans* in India. He is credited with the development of late blight forecasting models “Jhulsacast” and “IndoBlightcast”. Dr. Singh was a strong believer of research with a purpose. The inherent talent of Dr. Singh came to its fulfillment in research management. As Director ICAR-CPRI, he contributed immensely for consolidation of resources, modernization of research facilities, human resource development, development of research and linkages, development of improved potato varieties, development of processing technologies, crop modeling, refinements in seed production system etc. Under his dynamic leadership, Central Potato Research Institute received best ICAR institution award for the second time in 2012; Mahindra Krishi Samridhi Award in 2013. Dr Singh is recipient of several awards viz., Hari Om Ashram Trust Award; ICAR Award for outstanding interdisciplinary team research in agriculture and allied sciences for the biennium -2007-08; Late LC Sikka Endowment Award; S. Ramanujam Award; IPA Kaushalaya Sikka

Memorial Award-2005-2009; Distinguished Achievement Award; Merit Award; Award of appreciation; ICAR Award for outstanding interdisciplinary team research in crop and horticultural sciences for the biennium -2015-16; IPA-Kaushalya Sikka Memorial Award-2013-2017. During his long research career, Dr. Singh contributed significantly in the development of potato varieties for all segments viz., Kufri Giriraj, Kufri Shailja, Kufri Himalini, Kufri Girdhari, Kufri Sadabahar, Kufri Garima, Kufri Arun, Kufri Chipsona-3, Kufri Himsona, Kufri Chipsona-4, Kufri Frysona, and Kufri Surya. He guided eight Ph.D. students and published more than 280 scientific articles in national and international journals and edited nine books. Dr. Singh is a widely traveled scientist and visited Bangladesh, Bhutan, China, Ecuador, Germany, Italy, Indonesia, Mongolia, Peru, Srilanka, USA, Uzbekistan, etc.