



Brief Bio-data of Dr. M. C. KHARKWAL

A former **Principal Scientist & President of the Indian Society of Genetics & Plant Breeding** and an **IAEA Expert**, Dr. Kharkwal has worked at the Division of Genetics, ICAR - Indian Agricultural Research Institute, New Delhi for more than 40 years. He has made significant contributions in the field of mutation breeding by **breeding four high yielding chickpea mutant varieties – Pusa 408, Pusa 413, Pusa 417 and Pusa 547**. These are the **very first ever examples of direct use of induced micro-mutants in the world**. These **four mutant varieties were released and notified by Govt. of India** for farmers cultivation.

Dr. Kharkwal had an opportunity of serving the **Indian Society of Genetics and Plant Breeding for more than 20 years** in various capacities and got **elected** to the coveted office of the **President of the Society**. He also held important Executive Offices like **Secretary, Editor and Treasurer of the Society**. He contributed immensely in the growth and all round development of the Society and its internationally acclaimed Journal, *The Indian Journal of Genetics and Plant Breeding*, which he **edited for five years**. His outstanding managerial and organizational capabilities were seen in the organization of **Two International and Three National Conferences**. For his very sincere and committed managerial services to the Indian Society of Genetics and Plant Breeding and also for the highly successful organization of the **Fourth International Grain Legumes Researches Conference on “Food Legumes for Nutritional Security and Sustainable Agriculture”**, Dr. Kharkwal received an **“Outstanding Contribution” Award** from the hands of **Vice-President of India**.

Dr. Kharkwal was the **Organizing Secretary** for the **Fourth International Food Legumes Research Conference on “Food Legumes for Nutritional Security and Sustainable Agriculture.”** He was also the **Organizing Secretary** of the **Diamond Jubilee International Symposium on “Hundred Years of Post-Mendelian Genetics and Plant Breeding – Retrospect & Prospects.”** An active **Organizer**, he was **Member of the International Steering Committees** of several Conferences and Symposia such as the prestigious **International Symposium on Induced Mutations in Plants**, organized by FAO/IAEA at **Vienna in 2008** and the **Fourth and Fifth International Food Legumes Research Conferences** held at New Delhi and **Antalya, Turkey** respectively. He has delivered a large number of invited plenary lectures not only in India but in several leading international Symposia, Universities and Institutes in foreign countries like **Austria, Bangladesh, Czech Republic, Hungary, Italy, Malaysia, Nepal, Saudi Arabia, Syria, Turkey and USA**. As an **IAEA, Expert**, he was deputed to visit **Riyadh, Saudi Arabia to review and evaluate the National Programmes of Mutation breeding in Saudi Arabia**. Recently he has visited nine European countries – **UK, France, Belgium, Netherlands, Germany, Switzerland, Austria, Italy and Vatican**.

Besides publishing more than **135 research papers**, Dr. Kharkwal has edited several books and publications of international repute like the very popular book **“Plant Breeding – Mendelian to Molecular Approaches”** and the two highly acclaimed volumes of the **Proceedings of the Fourth**

International Food Legume Research Conference, on “**Food Legumes for Nutritional Security and Sustainable Agriculture**”. An active Faculty member of the IARI, New Delhi, Dr. Kharkwal is a recognized examiner of more than **25 Universities** in India. He has been an **Expert Member** in several **Selection Boards for Professor & Principal Scientist in several Universities & Research Institutes**. Dr. Kharkwal is **Fellow** and **Life Member** of several Professional Societies. Dr. Kharkwal has high proficiency in two foreign languages – **German and Russian** and has also taught German language at IARI, New Delhi. Delivering lectures and interacting with young students and faculty members on important scientific topics of **Genetics, Plant Breeding, Biotechnology, Seed Technology** and **Agriculture** in various Universities, Research Institutes and Colleges has now become a passion for Dr. Kharkwal, which he enjoys the most.