

**Dr. Sairam Reddy Palicherla**

Co-founder and Chief Scientific Officer in UrbanKisaan Farms, India

Director, Heartfulness Institute, India

Dr. Sairam is a passionate researcher and entrepreneur, aimed towards developing environmentally safe and sustainable agricultural technologies. He obtained his PhD in Plant Biotechnology. He did his Post-Doctoral research in IISc, Bangalore as a National Fellow of Biotechnology and in University of Delaware, USA as a NIH Fellow. He also did various courses from NALSAR, Indian School of Business, Indian Institute of Management - Bangalore, Stanford, MITx and Harvard Universities.

Currently he is leading the R&D of his own start-up 'UrbanKisaan', a vertical farming pioneer in India. UrbanKisaan is listed in the top 5 most influential projects in India for the year 2020 by PMI. UrbanKisaan was also awarded "Start-up of the Year 2021" by Economic Times, "Company of the Year 2021" by The Inner Review and, "Global Sustainability Award" and "Innovative Social Enterprise of the Year 2021" by TiE Sustainability Summit 2021. UrbanKisaan received investments from the leading investors like Y-Combinator, USA and BASF, Germany.

He published over 30 research articles in peer reviewed International Journals, presented many more topics in several scientific forums in multiple countries. He was honoured by National and International scientific bodies and received many awards for his scientific contributions, including "National Fellow in Biotechnology" by Dept. of Biotechnology, Govt. of India, "Best Project Leader" & "Best Mentor" by JK Organization, "Outstanding Biotechnologist" by WCPTC, Sri Lanka and "Distinguished Scientist" by Science & Technology and SIRI Foundation and Dr. APJ Abdul Kalam Excellency award, Indian Achievers Award for the year 2020. He was recently listed in the top 10 leaders in Agriculture Industry for the year 2020 by CEO Insights magazine.

He has been a sincere seeker of spirituality, practicing Heartfulness way of meditation for more than two decades. He is currently extending his voluntary services as Director for Heartfulness Institute, India and also as a trainer of Heartfulness meditation; and contributing his part in building stress-free society orienting towards higher life goals.