



Springer

## ***SOCIETY FOR PLANT RESEARCH***

**VEGETOS: An International Journal of Plant Research & Biotechnology**  
([www.vegetosindia.org](http://www.vegetosindia.org) ; [www.springer.com/42535](http://www.springer.com/42535))

# ***Felicitation Ceremony*** **HONORARY FELLOWS 2022**

**AUGUST 25, 2022**

***Venue :***

***Auditorium, Botany Department, Delhi University, Delhi***

## FOUNDER CHAIRMAN'S PEN



**SOCIETY FOR PLANT RESEARCH (SPR)** was founded with the view to provide an open platform to the researchers in various disciplines of Botany, Plant Sciences, Environmental Sciences, Plant Biotechnology etc. by publishing their researches in the journal VEGETOS.

The journal VEGETOS started its publication in 1988 and today, it is the most trusted and loved periodical of Plant Sciences and Biotechnology. Since its beginning, many internationally recognized scientists like Prof K S Bilgrami, Prof K S Bhargava, Prof C P Mallick, Prof B D Singh, Prof L M S Palni, Prof R B Singh, Prof S K Sopory, Prof T S Kahlon, Prof Manju Sharma, Prof Anupam Varma, Prof M P Yadav, Prof H D Kumar, Prof B R Chaudhary, Prof B M Johri, Prof P K Gupta, Prof M N Noor and many more renowned signatures of plant sciences, agriculture and biotechnology guided us for further improvement.

The journal VEGETOS, which was started in the year 1988, is now being processed, published and marketed by the global publisher Springer Nature since January 2019 thus strengthening its global authorship. Kindly visit the websites [www.vegetosindia.org](http://www.vegetosindia.org) or [www.springer.com/42535](http://www.springer.com/42535).

We had been organizing annually, the national and international conferences and our next national conference is scheduled in University of Rajasthan, Jaipur during first week of February, 2023. Despite Covid pandemic, our entire team of scientists and technical faculties remained active and organized various virtual meetings, webinars on potential topics including NAAS rating, UGC-CARE evaluation of journals, National Education Policy-2022 etc. besides timely publication of VEGETOS.

The Executive Body, SPR decided to nominate internationally recognized scientists and administrators as our Honorary Fellows from the year 2022, we feel honoured to felicitate 6 such scientists from this platform with the hope that their association with us will be a landmark in promoting the Society for Plant Research and VEGETOS globally.

With my sincere greetings, I welcome the esteemed Honorary Fellows (FSPR), our EC and Editorial Board members, distinguished guests and fellow colleagues who are connected to this prestigious ceremony in offline and online mode.

  
**(S K Bhatnagar)**

Founder Chairman & Secretary General,  
SOCIETY FOR PLANT RESEARCH

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**Prof. (Dr.) M. P. Yadav**

B.V.Sc. & A.H.; M.V.Sc., Ph.D.  
FNAVS, FNAAS, FIVS, FIAAVR, FISVIB, FRSCS, FSII  
Editor, Agricultural Research  
President, IAVMI

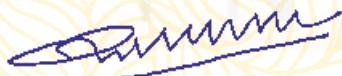
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Vice Chancellor, Sardar Vallabhai Patel University of Agric. & Tech., Meerut  
Director, Indian Veterinary Research Institute, Izatnagar  
Director, National Research Centre on Equines, Hisar  
Consultant Haryana Farmers' Commission  
President, National Academy of Veterinary Sciences (NAVS)  
President, Indian Agricultural University Association  
President, Indian Virological Society

**MESSAGE**

*I am glad that the Society for Plant Research (SPR), established 35 years ago and its research journal VEGETOS are organizing the Felicitation Ceremony for Honorary Fellows-2022 to honour the esteemed awardees. This initiative is a matter of proud for the entire family of SPR and Vegetos. I am sure, this will motivate learned faculty and younger scientists to pursue cross cutting researches in the plant kingdom for the progress and benefit of agriculture besides the societal development and welfare.*

*I take this opportunity to congratulate all the esteemed awardees and wish them greater achievements for the development of science, technology and innovations.*


**Prof (Dr) M P Yadav**

Founder Patron,

SOCIETY FOR PLANT RESEARCH

**MESSAGES****राष्ट्रीय मूल्यांकन एवं प्रत्यायन परिषद**

विश्वविद्यालय अनुदान आयोग का स्वायत्त संस्थान

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**Prof. S.C. Sharma**

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Former Vice-Chairman, Karnataka State Higher Education Council, Govt. of Karnataka  
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**MESSAGE**

*I am delighted to know that internationally recognized Society for Plant Research (SPR) & VEGETOS are organizing the Felicitation Ceremony on 25th August, 2022 in the Department of Botany, Delhi University, Delhi to recognize memorable contributions of the renowned scientists in the fields of Plant sciences, Agriculture and Biotechnology by nominating them as Honorary Fellows-2022.*

*It is really a noble task which will be a landmark in future journey of the society. I am confident that such associations become instrumental in providing momentum to the objective framed by the founders of SPR and the associated team of esteemed scientists.*

*I wish the event a grand success.*


**(Dr. S.C. Sharma)**

## MESSAGES

MESSAGE FROM H. E. DR. MANOJ NARDEOSINGH,  
SECRETARY GENERAL, AARDO

On behalf of the African-Asian Rural Development Organization (AARDO), it is my pleasure to congratulate Chairman, Secretary General and Members of the Society for Plant Research (SPR) on the occasion of the commemoration of Felicitation Ceremony for Honorary Fellows-2022, scheduled to be held at prestigious Department of Botany, Delhi University on 25 August, 2022. I shall be privileged to witness this memorable event of recognizing the paramount contributions of the renowned scientists as Honorary Fellows.

Society for Plant Research and its reputed journal *Vegetos* are globally recognized for enormous contribution to plant science and biotechnology. Society has been proactively disseminating scientific researches through its journal and well-organized seminars, conferences and other events. AARDO has very close and cordial relationship with Society.

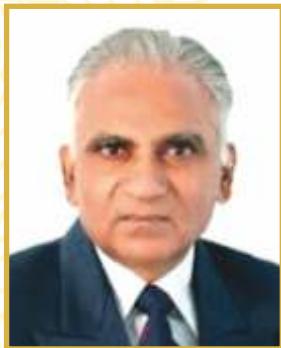
In 2017, AARDO, was pleased to collaborate with the SPR for organizing an International Conference on "Technological Advancement for Sustainable Agriculture and Rural Development" (TASARD-India, 2017), at the National Agricultural Science Complex (NASC), Indian Council of Agricultural Research (ICAR), Government of India, New Delhi, India. That conference was honoured by the presence of honourable Ministers and high-level delegates from AARDO member countries. It saw the participation of more than 300 eminent scientists, policy makers, practitioners and other stakeholders from Africa, Asia, Europe and USA and provided a platform to high level dignitaries, leading experts, scientists, resource persons and participants for sharing rich experiences and to brainstorm on scientific and technological solutions to achieve sustainable agriculture & rural development.

Indeed, it is equally highly commendable that the Society for Plant Research (SPR) is bringing out a Table Book during its felicitation ceremony highlighting its achievements in plant science and biotechnology. I am sure that this will trigger greater sharing of knowledge and facilitate professional networking.

I express my sincere gratitude to Prof. (Dr.) S.K. Bhatnagar, Founder Chairman & Secretary General of SPR and his able team for bringing this important publication. I wish that this table book would help bring global prosperity in agriculture and would be a useful source of information for policy makers, implementers, scientists, research scholars and other stakeholders, especially from AARDO member countries most of which striving to find solutions to food and nutrition security in the post covid era and to meet commitments of SDGs.

Dr. Manoj Nardeosingh  
Secretary General, AARDO

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**DR SWATI SAHA**

**PROF S L KOTHARI**



**Dr Emiliano Maletta** is basically an Agricultural Engineer and Agronomist with specific technical expertise on extensive agriculture, crop eco-physiology and crop management (University of Buenos Aires, ARGENTINA). He did his post-graduation in Agricultural and Environmental Economics and PhD in Sustainable agriculture from Polytechnic University, Madrid, Spain.

Dr Emiliano Maletta founded Bioenergy Crops Ltd. at Madrid, Spain and is now based at United Kingdom. He worked as Team leader, consultant on regenerative agriculture, expert on biomass, biofertilizers and industrial crops especially on oil crops, starch crops (including sugarcane) and protein crops including gums, resins, wax and other bio-products.

Presently he is the CEO of Bioenergy Crops Ltd. Consultancy projects on biomass, regenerative agriculture and dedicated bioenergy crops worldwide. He was the Founder and co-managing Director at BEC Seed & Management (Dominican Republic, Mexico, Paraguay, Ghana and Philippines) which is a start up owned by Bioenergy Crops Ltd (UK) developing an exponential biomass crop model through Torrefaction, pellets and briquetting industries.

Dr Maletta has a vast experience of working on petro crops in African and Asian countries like Senegal, Ethiopia, Ghana, Uganda, Madagascar, Pakistan etc. besides Peru, Mexico, US virgin islands, Panama, Chile, Argentina, Columbia, Bolivia etc. He has a large number of research publications in international journals and has successfully run many projects.

The Executive Body of Society for Plant research wishes him a long active life.



**Prof Manjit S. Kang** grew up in the village Khamanon Kalan in Punjab, completed his higher secondary education in Mandi Gobindgarh. During 1964-1968, he earned a B.Sc. (Agri & A.H.) degree with Honours from Punjab Agricultural University-Ludhiana, majoring in Plant Breeding and Genetics. Subsequently, he received an M.S. (Plant Genetics) degree from Southern Illinois University-Edwardsville (SIUE) in 1971. As Preceptor, he taught Plant Breeding and Genetics courses at Southern Illinois University-Carbondale there and earned an M.A. in Botany. He obtained his Ph.D. degree in Genetics and Plant Breeding from the University of Missouri-Columbia in 1977.

Dr. Kang's professorial career began in the USA in 1981 as a Sugarcane Geneticist (Assistant Professor) at the University of Florida (1981-1986). From 1986 to 2007, he served as a Quantitative Geneticist (1986-1990 as Associate Professor and 1990-2007 as Full Professor) at the Louisiana State University (LSU) in Baton Rouge. In April 2007, Punjab Government invited him to take the helms of Punjab Agricultural University-Ludhiana, as Vice Chancellor. Now, he is an Honorary Adjunct Professor at Kansas State University, Manhattan.

Dr. Kang has published more than 170 peer-reviewed articles and 16 books (edited or authored). He is a Fellow of both American Society of Agronomy and Crop Science Society of America. He is also an honorary Fellow of Indian Society of Life Sciences, Crop Improvement Society of India, and Punjab Academy of Sciences. In 1999, he was selected as a Fulbright Senior Scholar (teaching award) to Malaysia.

*The Executive Body of Society for Plant research wishes him a long active life.*

## HONORARY FELLOW - 2022



**Prof. Surapaneni Koteswara Rao (S K Rao)** is the Vice Chancellor, Rajmata Vijayaraje Scindia Krishi Vishwa Vidhyalaya, Gwalior. He is a renowned educationist and served for more than 36 years as Director Research Services (2015-2017), Dean Faculty of Agriculture (2012-2015), Dean, College of Agriculture, Rewa (2009-2012), University Professor and Head, Department of Plant Breeding (2001-2009) besides various positions.

He was born in Polukonda, Krishna District of Andhra Pradesh, India and obtained Doctorate and Master Degrees from JNKVV, Jabalpur.

Prof. Rao visited several international organizations in Germany, USA, Mexico, Uruguay, Japan and Switzerland. His association with crop improvement programs, seed programs, agri-business incubator, food and agri-business, organic agriculture have been duly recognized.

Dr. Rao stressed upon the need based basic and strategic research on oilseeds and pulses. He has to his credit twenty varieties of various crops. Establishment of Agribusiness incubator Bio-fertilizer consortium and holding of 50 entrepreneurs besides guiding M.Sc. (30)/PhD. (10) students have been some of his substantial contribution. Prof Rao has published over 200 research papers in National and International Journals besides several books.

Dr. Rao has been the recipient of Rafi Ahmed Kidwai Award by ICAR, Dr. Kailash Nath Katju Award by Government of MP, ICAR Award for Outstanding Inter-Disciplinary Team Research in Agriculture and Allied Sciences, Distinguished Scientist Award by the Andhra Pradesh Academy of Sciences, Jawahar Ratna Award by JNKVV and Lifetime Achievement Award in Public Seed Sector. He is the Fellow of the National Academy of Agriculture Sciences India, Indian Society of Pulse Research and Development and Indian Society of Genetics and Plant Breeding and Honorary Fellow of the Andhra Pradesh Academy of Sciences.

The Executive Body of Society for Plant research wishes him a long active life.

## HONORARY FELLOW - 2022



**Dr Nita Khandekar** did her graduation from G B Pant University, Pantnagar in the year 1984 and Masters from ICAR-Indian Veterinary Research Institute, Izatnagar. She got her M.Sc (Extension Education) degree in 1988 and was subsequently awarded Ph.D in 1992. She is from the Agricultural Research Services and joined ICAR in 1992 in the discipline of Agricultural Extension. After completing her training she joined ICAR-Central Avian Research Institute, Izatnagar in 1993 where she worked till 2003 and thereon, shifted to ICAR-Indian Institute of Horticultural Research, Bengaluru, from where she moved as Director to ICAR-Indian Institute of Soybean Research, Indore.

Her areas of interest are gender studies, technology dissemination approaches and impact assessment. She has developed extension model for rapid quality seed production in Soybean. She has published more than 50 research papers, twelve book chapters, co-edited 4 books, presented more than 100 invited/submitted papers in seminar symposium and has more than 500 popular/news articles to her credit. She made use of mass media for technological back-stopping. She has guided 3 Ph.D, 4 M.Sc and 2 student projects. She availed Commonwealth Academic Staff Fellowship (2009-10) tenable at the University of Reading, UK. She has been member of several committees of the Indian council of Social Sciences Research, University Grants Commission, Department of Biotechnology and ICAR. She has been conferred several awards including the Productivity council award and the Soybean Processors Association of India (SOPA) special award for significant contribution to Research and Development of soybean cultivation in India (2021)

The Executive Body of Society for Plant research wishes her a long active life.

FELICITATION CEREMONY



**Prof. R.R. Hanchinal** served as the Chairperson, Protection of Plant Varieties & Farmers Rights Authority (Secretary Rank) Government of India besides serving as Vice Chancellor, University of Agricultural Sciences, Dharwad and other key posts. He was advisor to Indonesia Government for the development of Food Crop Research (2003-2005) and also served as Senior Seed Production specialist for the USAID West Africa Seed Alliance-ICRISAT (2008). As a plant breeder, he has developed and released 23 varieties in different crops.

He developed unique method for the first time by selecting and adopting potential villages for seed production with Modified Seed Village Concept which is popularly known as DHARWAD MODEL. This model became role model for the country and helped to saturate Karnataka region with improved varieties in high volume low value crops viz., groundnut, soybean, pulses and cereals.

For his outstanding work, he was awarded with as many as 22 national/international Awards besides being a grantee for the Obama-Singh 21st Century knowledge initiative (2012). Prof. Hanchinal is a Fellow of National Academy of Agricultural Sciences, National Academy of Biological Sciences and Honorary fellow/fellow of many professional societies having 394 publications to his credit. He is the President of Society for Plant Research (VEGETOS) since 2018. Presently Prof. Hanchinal is working as Consultant-Genetic Resources Conservation & Use, Bioversity International-Country Office- India, NASC Complex, PUSA Campus, New Delhi.

The Executive Body of Society for Plant research wishes him a long active life.

## HONORARY FELLOW - 2022



**Prof. Rama Swamy Nanna** is Professor in the department of Biotechnology, Kakatiya University, Warangal (TS), India. He obtained his Doctorate Degree in the area of Genetics and Plant Breeding from Kakatiya University in 1983. He has been awarded Indo-Hungarian Academy of Sciences & UNESCO Fellowship, Hungary-1983; Indo-Netherlands cultural Exchange Fellowship-1997, TWAS-UNESCO visiting Associated Fellowship-2002-2004, Indo-Hungarian Academy Sciences Fellowship-2008.

He has guided 23 scholars for their Ph.D degrees and 4 M.Phil students and has published 160 research articles in peer reviewed reputed National and International Journals and authored/edited 18 Books. He has Completed 09 Major Research Projects funded by UGC, MoEF, DBT, AICTE etc.

He collaborated with EMBRAPA/CENARGEN, Brazil and Groningen University, Netherlands. His research resulted in developing protocols for conservation of an endangered plants & Forest tree species. He Genetically Engineered the Brazilian banana sHSP genes. Transgenic fungal disease resistant groundnut and red gram was successfully developed by transferring Tc-chit-I gene and also isolated pharmaceutically important plant secondary metabolites from various medicinal plants and screened against human pathogenic bacteria. He worked on green synthesis of nanoparticles and their effect on human pathogens. Purified the cost effective capsular polysaccharides production from *Streptococcus pneumonia* which can be used in vaccines preparation or in conjugative vaccines production.

He has been conferred Academy of Plant Sciences India Award-2005; Andhra Pradesh Scientist Award-2007; The Excellency Award-2009; State Meritorious Best Teacher Award-2010, Talented Biotechnologist Award-2011(Srilanka); Talented Scientist Award-2012(USA); Excellency in Research Award-2014; Prof. Panchanana Maheshwari Medal Award-2017; DBT-Visiting Research Professor-2018; Fellow of Telangana Academy of Sciences-2019; National Biotechnology expert-DBT, Spectrum Planning India (Ltd)-2020; India's Most Dynamic Achievers Award in Plant Biotechnology-2021.

The Executive Body of Society for Plant research wishes him a long active life.

FELICITATION CEREMONY

## PROF K G MUKERJI MEMORIAL LIFETIME ACHIEVEMENT AWARD - 2022



# FELICITATION CEREMONY

## AWARDS - 2021



**PROF B P PATIL  
PROF B M JOHRI  
MEMORIAL AWARD**



**PROF SDS MURTHY  
PROF YSRK SARMA AWARD**



**DR SUMA MOGALI  
DR M S SWAMINATHAN  
AWARD-2021**



**PROF K MUTHUCHELIAN  
DISTINGUISHED SCIENTIST  
AWARD-2021**



**PROF DINAKARA RAO  
EMINENT SCIENTIST  
AWARD-2021**



**DR ARUN JYOTI NATH  
YOUNG SCIENTIST AWARD  
(PLANT SCIENCE)-2021**



**DR RENU SINGH  
YOUNG SCIENTIST AWARD  
(AGRICULTURE)-2021**



**DR VINOD  
YOUNG SCIENTIST AWARD  
(AGRICULTURE)-2021**



**DR BILAL AHMAD MIR  
YOUNG SCIENTIST AWARD  
(BOTANY)-2021**

### FELLOW AWARDEE - 2021

**DR ANJU RANI  
DR KIRAN KOUR  
DR MUNEEB AHMAD WANI  
DR PRADEEP KUMAR DUBEY  
DR SUBARAN SINGH  
DR B SUMAN  
DR MEKALA SRIKANTH  
DR CHANDRA MOULI**



**DR VISHNU PR. AGARWAL  
YOUNG SCIENTIST AWARD  
(BIOTECHNOLOGY)-2021**

## GLIMPSES OF SOME ACTIVITIES



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# VEGETOS

Official Publication of Society for Plant Research



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**PHYTOPIA**  
**REAP life**  
(An extended publication of Vegetos)

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**Society for Plant Research (SPR)**  
INDIA

**A Newsletter of**  
**SOCIETY FOR PLANT RESEARCH**

Prof. S K Bhatnagar  
Founder, SPR & Advisor

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**Society for Plant Research (SPR)** is seeking your contributions to its first Newsletter, SPR-PHYTOPIA, being published with quarterly periodicity as per approval by the Executive Body, SPR. It is meant to share with the scientific community various issues of scientific interest in order to keep the younger faculty updated.

We invite members/students/scientific fraternity/renowned academicians to submit a short article or announcement that fits into any of the following categories:

**The Biscope:** Brief articles which should be short, topical, news-oriented, not more than 150 words including Title. The news must be trailed with the source where from the details can be sought by the readers.

**The ArtPart:** Welcome original creativity. Be it cartoon, poem, scientific fiction, exhibits or any other art form that deals with science or is about science or uses plants or microorganisms to create artistic masterpieces.

**The CityZone:** Concerns of the built environments. This is to highlight the problems of urbanisation/modernisation that our villages/hometowns/metros are facing or creating. The concern should be backed by data and photographs. Information must be there on what has been done, what the town planners or corporations or government have done or are doing or are planning to do and what may be the solutions based on experience of other cities/towns/villages and is there any solution available through scientific quests?

**The FolkLure:** The treasure of knowledge on the tongue. Every language/culture has information on diseases, medicine, weather, food preparation, food and feeding habits, care of mother, child and the aged and what not. This box is meant to give space to such information that has either been tested or has potential to be tested for its validity along with cultural details and source of information.

**The BioScope:** Biographical sketch or interview of stalwarts in biological sciences.

**The FaultLine:** Based on true cases but will be presented anonymously to show what is the deficiency or fault in a particular experimental plan. The format will be Objective, Experimental plan proposed, inference drawn (if required) and what would have been the correct methodology or addition of what could have given it a different or stronger interpretation.

This may be based on our own rejections/thesis evaluation (all anonymous, presented in our own language). The purpose is to point out how experimental plans defeat us and also to help new learners on how to look into minor details of the experimental plans.

**Opportunities:** To learn and move forward. Events, conferences, announcements, job opportunities etc.

Society and its journal VEGETOS have attained a respectable position and the executive body of SPR has developed tie with the global publisher Springer Nature with effect from January 1, 2019. Through its dedicated Editorial Manager portal, initial screening like duplication, plagiarism check etc. is done by Springer Nature team before assigning it to the Editor in Chief for further processing.

Strengthening of SPR is a continued concern of all Executive Members and the Editorial Board for which following strategy has been adopted.

1. Membership from distant corners of the country and more precisely from abroad will be a major concern. For this reason, the EC of SPR would request all its awardees, fellows and Honourary Fellows, councillors, reviewers and young researchers to join this scientific platform.
2. Activities of SPR and VEGETOS are being operated from the administrative and Editorial Office and a website is operational at which all information pertaining to the SPR and VEGETOS will remain available.
3. PRINT VERSION of VEGETOS has been discontinued for all including libraries etc. All the members are being motivated to opt online version of the journal VEGETOS can be accessed through our website [www.vegetosindia.org](http://www.vegetosindia.org). Life members and Annual members shall be provided individual user name and password to view all back issues of VEGETOS after getting themself registered on the website.
4. Almost every alternate year, Society for Plant Research receive proposal to open Conference Chapter which is considered in the Executive Body meeting and finalized.
5. Mass Awakening Program by organizing one day satellite Seminars, Workshops on local issues, Guest lectures are the mandate of this society which are performed regularly.
6. Executive Body, SPR has already entrusted two EC members to start a Popular Science Magazine PHYTOPIA (Quarterly) for youths in ENGLISH so as to create interest in basic and frontier areas of science which is now available on our website [www.vegetosindia.org](http://www.vegetosindia.org)  
You are requested you to become an integral part of this society not only by contributing your researches for publication in VEGETOS but with a creative input and suggestion for elevating this platform. Please feel free in writing to me at email ID [drsksb2000@yahoo.com](mailto:drsksb2000@yahoo.com) or at [contact@vegetosindia.org](mailto:contact@vegetosindia.org) We are also available on Facebook (@sprindiaofficial), Linkedin, Twitter (@vegetosindia), Instagram (@vegetosindia), Youtube for interaction.

You are welcome to join us as Life Member/Annual member to strengthen this scientific platform.

*Thank you very much for joining us.....*