

Brief BIO-DATA OF Dr. Pankaj Kaushal

Dr. Pankaj Kaushal, born on September 30, 1970 in Punjab, completed graduation (1989) from Ravishanker University Raipur (CG), and Post-graduation (1992) and Doctorate (1995) in Genetics from Punjab Agricultural University, Ludhiana. He joined ICAR as Scientist in 1995 and served the Indian Grassland and Fodder Research Institute (IGFRI) Jhansi in capacities of Scientist and Senior Scientist for 13 years and at National Rice Research Institute, Cuttack, as Principal Scientist (2008-2011). He later served as Head, Crop Improvement Division, ICAR-IGFRI Jhansi (2011-2016) and Research Management Position of Joint Director (Research) at National Institute of Biotic Stress Management, Raipur (2016-2023).

His area of research includes crop cytogenetics, alien gene introgressions for the improvement of crop plants (including fodders and cereals) for enhanced stress tolerance and other desirable traits, as well as understanding seed development process in grasses and cereals, including apomixis. He has ten released varieties in crops such as berseem, guinea grass and pearl millet and a total of 4 germplasm catalogues, 26 germplasm registrations, as well as novel genetic stocks in guinea grass, berseem and pearl millet, that also include a world's largest ploidy series in a crop plant generated from a single progenitor, represented by eight ploidy levels (listed in Limca Book of Records 2020), and also has developed a novel breeding methodology *viz.* Hybridization-supplemented Apomixis-components Partitioning Approach (HAPA) and Apomixis Mediated Genome Addition (AMGA) for apomictic crops. He has devised methodologies for Ploidy manipulations and gene transfer in apomictic grasses. He has been involved in 21 externally funded projects. He in the capacity of Joint Director (Research), has been instrumental in establishing NIBSM, Raipur infrastructure including laboratories. He developed multi-disciplinary research projects (22) and defined thrust areas of research for four constituent Schools. He led research in whitefly genetic groups, gene-pool profiling, stress-induced promoters, superdonors, non-host resistance, epigenetic regulation, and generated technologies on Bt, kairomones, bacteriophages, endophyte-mediated- stress tolerance.

He has been bestowed with several awards and Honors including Fellow NAAS, M S Randhawa medal, Fellow RMSI, NAAS Associateship, Dr. SK Vasal Award (ISPGR), DST-BOYSCAST Fellowship, DBT-Indian Biotech Overseas Associateship, and ICAR-Multidisciplinary research team award, and had conducted post-doctoral research in Germany, Italy and USA. He has more than 105 research articles published in journals of international repute and many book chapters and edited books in his area of research.