



Curriculum Vitae Prof. Rajeev Varshney Ph.D.



Name: Rajeev Varshney

Born: 13 July 1973

Main areas of research: Genetic Engineering, functional genomics, Applied genomics, Pre-Breeding, Genomics and Trait Discovery

Rajeev Kumar Varshney is a geneticist who researches in the area of international agriculture. He works as Global Research Program Director at Genetic Gains at the International Crops Research Institute for Semi-Arid Tropics (ICRISAT), that encompasses different disciplines including Genebank, Pre-Breeding, Genomics & Trait Discovery, Cell & Molecular Biology and Genetic Engineering, Forward and Integrated Breeding, and Seed Systems.

Academic and Professional Career

- since 2016 Global Research Program Director – Genetic Gains, International Crops Research Institute for the Semi-Arid Tropics (ICRISAT), Patancheru, India
- 2014 Winthrop Research Professor, The School of Plant Biology, The University of Western Australia, Australia
- 2012 - 2016 Director, Centre of Excellence in Genomics (CEG), International Crops Research Institute for the Semi-Arid Tropics (ICRISAT), Patancheru, India
- since 2008 Principal Scientist, International Crops Research Institute for the Semi-Arid Tropics (ICRISAT), Patancheru, India
- 2005 - 2008 Senior Scientist, International Crops Research Institute for the Semi-Arid Tropics (ICRISAT), Patancheru, India
- 2001 Ph.D., CCS University, Meerut, India
- 2001 - 2005 Research Scientist, Institute of Plant Genetics & Crop Plant Research (IPK), Gatersleben, Germany
- 1995 - 2000 Research Fellow, Ch Charan Singh University (CCSU), Meerut, India
- 1995 M.Sc. AMU, Aligarh, India

Functions in Scientific Societies and Committees

- since 2016 Elect Chair Genomics, Molecular Genetics & Biotechnology Division of Crop Science Society of America
- 2015 Elected Member of Steering Committee of DivSeek
- 2014 Member, Research Advisory Committee for Central Research Institute for Jute and Allied Fibres, Indian Council of Agricultural Research
- since 2013 Member of Research Committee, Farm Research Committee, Emergency Management Team and Chair, Plant Material Identification Committee of ICRIASAT
- 2012 Member, Advisory Board, International School of Hyderabad
- 2011 Member, Research Advisory Council for Tea Board of India (Ministry of Commerce, Government of India)
- 2011 Member, Research Advisory Committee for Central Sericultural Research & Training Institute, Silk Board of India (Ministry of Textiles, Government of India)
- 2010 Served Agricultural Scientists Recruitment Board (ASRB) of Ministry of Agriculture as an External Subject Matter Specialist for recruiting Senior Scientists in several ICAR institutes

Member of Editorial Boards: Molecular Genetics and Genomics (2013), Plant Biotechnology Journal (2013), The Plant Genome (2012), Journal of Food Legumes, India (2010-2013), Plant Breeding (2008), Molecular Breeding (2008 - 2013), Frontiers in Plant Science (2010), BMC Genetics (2009 - 2011), BMC Plant Biology (2009 - 2011), Journal of Plant Biochemistry and Biotechnology (2008 - 2012), Theoretical and Applied Genetics (2008), Plant Genetic Resources, CABI Press (2005) , Euphytica (2005 - 2012)

Project coordination, Membership in collaborative research projects

- 2007 - 2013 Leader, SubProgramme 2, Generation Challenge Programme (GCP), hosted by CIMMYT, Mexico
- 2004 - 2007 Coordinator, 'Recombinational Analysis' of International Triticeae Mapping Initiative (ITMI)
- 2003 - 2008 Coordinator, International 'Triticeae EST-SSR Coordination' of ITMI

Honours and Awarded Membership

- 2017 IPGI Award for leadership & contribution to peanut research
- since 2016 Member of the German National Academy of Sciences Leopoldina
- 2016 Elected Fellow of Indian Society of Genetics & Plant Breeding
- 2015 Highly Cited Researcher (the only one from the CGIAR system and from India in Agricultural Sciences) by Thomson Reuters

2015	Shanti Swarup Bhatnagar Prize for Science and Technology (Biological Sciences)
2015	Research Excellence India Citation Award
2015	Senior Scientist Award of Association of Biotechnology & Pharmacy (ABAP), India
2015	Listed in World's Most Influential Scientific Minds by Thomson Reuters
2015	Elected Fellow of Crop Science Society of America (CSSA)
2015	Elected Fellow of The National Academy of Sciences, India (NASI)
2015	Elected Fellow of Association of Biotechnology & Pharmacy (ABAP), India
2014	Highly Cited Researcher (the only one from the CGIAR system and from India in Agricultural Sciences)
2014	Elected Fellow of AP Akademi of Sciences (APAS) and Telangana State Akademi of Sciences (TSAS), India
2013	The Illumina Agricultural Greater Good Initiative Award
2013	Young Crop Scientist Award of Crop Science Society of America (CSSA)
2013	Elected Fellow of Indian National Science Academy (INSA)
2012	Honorary Professor at BGI-Hongkong Research Institute, China
2010	NASI-Scopus Young Scientist Award
2010	Elected Fellow of National Academy of Agricultural Sciences, India (NAAS)
2008 - 2012	Associateship (Associate Fellow) of NAAS-India
2008	INSA-Young Scientist Medal
2007	NASI-Young Scientist Platinum Jubilee Award

Major Scientific Interests

Rajeev Kumar Varshney is a geneticist who researches in the area of international agriculture. He works as Global Research Program Director at the Genetic Gains at International Crops Research Institute for Semi-Arid Tropics (ICRISAT) that encompasses different disciplines including Genebank, Pre-Breeding, Genomics & Trait Discovery, Cell & Molecular Biology and Genetic Engineering, Forward and Integrated Breeding, and Seed Systems.

Rajeev has a basic background in molecular genetics and possesses more than 15 years research experience in international agriculture. His research is focused on structural, functional, comparative and translational genomics for improving the crop productivity of legume crops in marginal environments in Africa and Asia.

He is internationally recognized for his contribution in genome sequencing of pigeonpea, chickpea, peanut, pearl millet, sesame, mungbean and adzuki bean and development of molecular breeding products in chickpea, pigeonpea and peanut.