

2016 Awardee



Lifetime Achievement Award

Dr. Brahma Singh

Brahma Singh, I D No. 341, Batch 1961 Padma Sri Awardee, 2014; fellow of NAAS, AFST(I), NABS, HSI, ISVS, ISNS, was born in village Palri, district Muzaffarnagar, Uttar Pradesh on December, 15, 1941. He did B.Sc (Hons) Ag. and A. H. and M.Sc.Ag. in 1964 and 1966, respectively from this university and Ph D (Hort.) in 1970 from IARI, New Delhi. He is recipient of several prestigious awards and recognitions. He undertook several appointments (director for 15 years) at DRDO labs and its HQ, New Delhi. Post retirement he served as Emeritus Scientist, General Manager of Uttarakhand Seeds and Tarai Development Corporation, Haldi/Pantnagar and Officer on Special Duty (Horticulture) at Rashtrapati Bhawan New Delhi.

Brahma Singh is known for development of innovative technologies for vegetable and crop cultivation in cold desert making their cultivation possible, earlier considered impossible and thereby earned the accolade as the *person who greened Leh*. He popularized seabuckthorn (brahmphal) and Indian mulberry (noni), new crops having many uses in pharmaceutical, cosmetic and nutraceutical industries. Seabuckthorn industry in Ladakh is now flourishing and benefitting local farmers immensely by his pioneering initiative. He had been instrumental in establishment of herbal gardens in Leh (11,500 ft amsl), in 1993 and later at the Rashtrapati Bhavan, New Delhi leading to their popularity in the country. He identified a resistant variety of tomato to root-knot nematodes and developed six other vegetable varieties.

Advocacy and involvement of Prof. Singh have led to establishment of research stations in Pithoragarh, Tawang and Partapur, establishment of permafrost facility at Changtang (17000 ft amsl) and self-sustaining Nang village near Leh (13500 ft amsl); documentation of the flora of Ladakh, induction of local Zanskar ponies into the Indian Army during the Kargil war; popularization of hottest chilly, Bhut Jholokia, commercial true potato seed production in Leh valley and development of *space food* for the first Indo-Russian space mission. Singh, holder of four patents, is credited with 6 technical bulletins, 6 books, 8 book chapters, 81 research articles, two coffee table books on Trees of Rashtrapati Bhavan and Roses of Rashtrapati Bhavan.

Prof. Singh is founder President of Indian society for protected cultivation, New Delhi, Vice President, Indian society for vegetable sciences, Varanasi and the joint secretary of International society for Noni science, Chennai.