

Dr P. Ananda Kumar

National Research Centre on Plant Biotechnology

Dr P. Ananda Kumar is the Project Director of National Research Centre on Plant Biotechnology. He obtained M.Sc degree in Botany from Sri Venkateswara University, Tirupati. He joined as a Scientist in Agricultural Research Service of the Indian Council of Agricultural Research (ICAR) in 1978. He obtained Ph.D degree in Plant Physiology from Indian Agricultural Research Institute (IARI), New Delhi. After working as a Humboldt Fellow in the University of Hannover, he moved to Biotechnology Centre, IARI, in 1993. He specialized in the area of transgenic development for insect resistance utilizing the genes encoding insecticidal proteins of *Bacillus thuringiensis*. Dr Kumar developed fruit borer resistant brinjal and tomato which were licensed to private companies.

Dr Kumar published over 100 research articles and book chapters. He has three patents on codon-modified and chimeric Bt genes. His other research interests include gene targeting and functional genomics of cotton.

He is currently managing the National Research Centre on Plant Biotechnology (NRCPB), which is actively involved in frontier areas of research in plant molecular biology and biotechnology. He also serves as the Secretary of the Society for Plant Biochemistry and Biotechnology, India.

Some of the honours and awards received by Dr Kumar include:

1. Recognition award, National Academy of Agricultural Sciences – 2005.
2. National Bioscience Award-Department of Biotechnology – 2001.
3. VASVIK Award for Agriculture and Industry - 2000
4. Fellow, National Academy of Agricultural Sciences - 1997
5. Fellow, Alexander von Humboldt Stiftung -1991
6. Young Scientist Award-Indian National Science Academy -1989
7. Prof Hiralal Chakravarty Award-Indian Science Congress Association –1996