

## **Brief CV of Dr. Sanjay Kumar, Director CSIR-IHBT, Palampur**

Dr. Sanjay Kumar joined as Director, CSIR-IHBT on 11<sup>th</sup> June, 2015. With a focus on high altitude biology, his research interests span plant adaptation and climate change studies, metabolic engineering of secondary metabolites and bioprospecting genes and enzymes. After obtaining Master's degrees in plant physiology from G.B. Pant University of Agriculture and Technology, Pantnagar, he pursued Ph.D. from the Indian Agricultural Research



Institute, New Delhi, joined CSIR-IHBT as Scientist B in 1990 and served as Senior Principal Scientist in the same institute prior to his joining as Director.

Early in his career, he received the Young Scientist Award by Indian National Science Academy, New Delhi. He is recipient of the DST sponsored BOYSCAST Fellowship and DBT Overseas Associateship. Later, he received International Research Associateship at Kansas State University, USA in the area of Ecological genomics. In 2008, Dr Sanjay was awarded Certificate of Merit in CSIR Leadership Programme. Currently, he is a Fellow of the National Academy of Sciences, National Academy of Agricultural Sciences, and The Crop Improvement Society of India.

For his distinguished service to industry, he was awarded the prestigious VASVIK Industrial Research Award 2013 for Agricultural Science and Technology. His key contributions to industry include production of unique autoclavable superoxide dismutase enzyme which finds application in cosmetic, food and medical industry and technology was transferred to M/s Phyto Biotech, Kolkata at a premium price. Another technology, the RNA Isolation Kit developed by his group has been commercialized to a Chennai based company which is presently marketed by Merck.

Other major research contributions of his group are on discovery of a novel carbon fixation pathway; bioprospecting genes, proteins and processes for tolerance under abiotic stresses; deciphering the mechanisms of winter dormancy and drought stress in tea; genetic regulation of catechins, picrosides, steviosides, shikonins and podophyllotoxin biosynthesis. He has guided 15 Ph.D. and 4 M.Sc. students and has over 100 publications, including in Nature Publishing Group journal. He has several patents to his credit, some of which are commercialized also.

He is member of several Professional Committees and Task Forces at national level, and Editorial Board of international journals. He has represented the Institute in international conferences and visited several countries including UK, USA, Germany, Australia, Egypt and Taiwan.