

Bio data format

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Academic qualification	M.Sc. (Botany), Ph. D.
Field of specialisation	Economic Botany and Plant Genetic Resources
Years of service	30
Significant contributions related to the relevant field of specialisation	The genus <i>Momordica</i> was revised; a new species endemic to Western Ghats, <i>M. sahyadrica</i> was described; Assam kakrol was designated as <i>Momordica subangulata</i> subsp. <i>renigera</i> ; ethno-botany of the genus in Western Ghats was elucidated, besides preparation of descriptors and taxonomic key for dioecious and monoecious taxa and ecogeographic conspectus for <i>Momordica</i> . Carried out 48 plant exploration and collection missions in Western Ghats (Kerala, Karnataka, Tamil Nadu, Goa and Maharashtra), Andaman & Nicobar Islands, Lakshadweep Islands and North Eastern states of Mizoram, Tripura, Nagaland and Arunachal Pradesh for cucurbits, other vegetables, fruits, tuber crops and crop wild relatives. A total of 166 accessions of tuberous species comprising <i>Alocasia</i> (4), <i>Amorphophallus</i> (45), <i>Colocasia</i> (16), <i>Dioscorea</i> (83), <i>Manihot</i> (7), <i>Solenostemon</i> (4) and <i>Tacca</i> (7) were collected. Under the National Agricultural Innovative Project on Bio-systematics, taxonomy and crossability relationship of the genera <i>Abelmoschus</i> and <i>Cucumis</i> were worked out. A new species <i>Abelmoschus enbeepeegearensis</i> was described. Contributed to the description of <i>Vigna konkanensis</i> - a new species of Asiatic <i>Vigna</i> from Western Ghats and <i>Momordica x suboica</i> , the first ever inter-specific hybrid between Teasel gourd and Spine gourd. Was instrumental in collection of many RET crop wild relatives like <i>Cucumis silentvallei</i> , <i>C. indicus</i> , <i>C. hystrix</i> , <i>C. muriculatus</i> , <i>Abelmoschus angulosus</i> var. <i>angulosus</i> , <i>A. angulosus</i> var. <i>purpureus</i> , <i>Momordica sahyadrica</i> , <i>M. subangulata</i> subsp. <i>subangulata</i> and <i>M. subangulata</i> subsp. <i>renigera</i> , <i>M. cochinchinensis</i> and their conservation in the NGB. Several under-utilised/ potential/ wild edible/ exotic fruits of Western Ghats and Andaman Islands like <i>Artocarpus hirsutus</i> , <i>A. chama</i> , <i>A. gomezianus</i> subsp. <i>lakoocha</i> , <i>Mangifera andamanica</i> , <i>Baccurea courtallensis</i> , <i>B. ramiflora</i> , <i>Salacia fruiticosa</i> , <i>Aporousa lindleyana</i> , Rambutan, Pulasan, Mangosteen, Durian, etc. were assembled and established in FGB/ handed over to NAGS. An FGB holding of 94 accs. of poly-embryonic mango landraces of West Coast was established. Potential wild economic plants like <i>Caryota mitis</i> , <i>Momordica cochinchinensis</i> , <i>M. dioica</i> , <i>M. sahyadrica</i> and <i>M. subangulata</i> subsp. <i>renigera</i> were popularised and <i>in-situ</i> on-farm conservation of various <i>Momordica</i> species are being implemented in a tribal hamlet in the Peechi WLS, Thrissur, Kerala. Under the inter-specific hybridization programme six new synthetic species of <i>Abelmoschus</i> with okra as maternal parent was developed for Yellow Vein Mosaic resistance breeding.
Positions held	Officer in charge of ICAR-NBPGR Regional Station, Thrissur w.e.f. 01/07/2014
Special titles and awards received	Awarded Dr. RK Arora Best Paper Award (Indian Society of Plant Genetic Resources) in 2008 for the paper "Occurrence, distribution and ex situ regeneration of Balsam apple (<i>Momordica balsamina</i> L.) in India" [<i>Indian J. Plant Genet. Resources</i> 21(1) 51- 54] and in 2010 for the paper "Floristic Diversity of Potential Horticultural Plants in Bay Islands of India" [<i>Indian J. Plant. Genet. Resources</i> 23 (2):199-205]
Publications	A)International : 15 B) National : 30 Co-authored a book entitled " <i>Momordica</i> Genus in Asia: An Overview" published by Springer.
Others (if any)	..