

KEYNOTE SPEAKERS



KN01
Rattan Lal
Ohio State University, USA

Dr. Rattan Lal is a distinguished university professor of Soil Science at the Ohio State University in Columbus, Ohio, USA. Previously, he was Senior Research Fellow at the University of Sydney, Australia (1968-69) and a Soil Physicist at IITA in Ibadan, Nigeria (1969-87). His research focus is on climate-resilient agriculture, soil carbon sequestration, sustainable intensification, enhancing efficient use of agro-ecosystems, and sustainable management of soils of the tropics. He was included in the Thomas Reuters 2014 and 2015 list of World's Most Influential Scientific Minds. He is a recipient of honorary degrees from Punjab Agricultural University in Ludhiana, India, the Norwegian University of Life Sciences in Aas, Norway, Alecu Russo University of Moldova, and Technical University of Dresden, Germany.

Formerly, he was the president of the Soil Science Society of America (2005-2007), and is currently the President Elect of the International Union of Soil Sciences in Vienna, Austria (2014-). He is also the Chair of the Advisory Committee to UNU-FLORES in Dresden, Germany (2014-). He has mentored 105 graduate students, 54 postdoctoral researchers, and 145 visiting scholars. He has authored or co-authored more than 1,976 research publications, including 783 referenced journal articles and 427 book chapters. Lal has written 16 books and edited or co-edited 61 books.



KN02
Pramod K. Joshi
International Food Policy
Research Institute (IFPRI)

Dr. Pramod K. Joshi is the director for IFPRI South Asia. Previously, he held the positions of Director of the National Academy of Agricultural Research Management, Hyderabad, India, and the Director of the National Centre for Agricultural Economics and Policy Research, New Delhi, India. Earlier in his career, Joshi was South Asia Coordinator at IFPRI and senior economist at the

International Crops Research Institute for the Semi-Arid Tropics in Patancheru. His areas of research include technology policy, market, and institutional economics.

Joshi has received many awards, including the Dr. MS Randhawa Memorial Award of the National Academy of Agricultural Sciences (2009-11) and Professor R.C. Agarwal Lifetime Achievement Award of the Indian Society of Agricultural Economics. He is the recipient of DK Desai Award of the Indian Society of Agricultural Economics and RT Doshi Foundation Award of the Agricultural Economics Research Association for outstanding contribution in social science and agricultural economics research. He is a Fellow of the National Academy of Agricultural Sciences and has been the president of the Indian Society of Agricultural Economics (2014) and Indian Society of Agricultural Marketing (2014).

Joshi has also served as a member of the intergovernmental panel on the World Bank's International Assessment of Agricultural Science and Technology for Development (2007-08), on the Indian government's "Right to Food" National Human Rights Commission, and as the secretary-general of the Fourth World Congress on Conservation Agriculture.



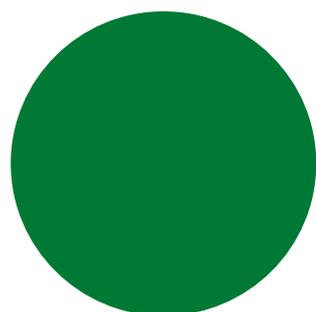
KN03
Mahmoud Solh
International Center for
Agriculture Research in the
Dry Areas (ICARDA)

Dr. Mahmoud Solh is the director general of ICARDA since May 2006. He has been associated with international agricultural research and development in the dry areas since 1972 when he joined Ford Foundation Arid Land Agricultural Development Program in the Near East, the predecessor of ICARDA.

Previously, Solh was director of the Plant Production and Protection Division at the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO) for four years. Before that, he worked at ICARDA for nearly 16 years in various capacities – as a lentil breeder, a regional food legume breeder for North Africa, regional coordinator of the Nile Valley and Red Sea Regional Program, and assistant director general for international cooperation. Solh was professor of Genetics and Plant Breeding at the American University of Beirut, Lebanon from 1980 to 1986.

Solh holds a Ph.D in Genetics from the University of California, Davis, USA, and has an impressive record of scientific publications. He is experienced in donor relations and fund-raising, and has an in-depth knowledge of the needs and aspirations of the national agricultural research and development systems in the Central and West Asia, and North Africa regions and beyond. In October 2011, he received Award of Distinction for Outstanding Alumnus from University of California, Davis. This year, Solh also received the FAO 70th Anniversary Commemorative Medal for his lifetime contributions to global food security, alleviation of hunger and malnutrition, and sustainable management of natural resources – the three goals at the heart of the FAO’s mission.

genetic potential for biofortification and bioavailability of micronutrients present in pulse crops (lentils), leafy green vegetables, and small fruits to improve human health and nutrition. Her current research focuses on their biofortification for selenium, iron, zinc, folates, and optimizing anti-nutrients such as phenolics and phytic acid. Thavarajah is leading a Pulse and Vegetable Quality and Nutrition program which links pulse crops and vegetables in food systems to human health and well-being, especially for North America, South East Asia and Africa.



KN04
Nabil Chaouki
Ministry of Agriculture,
Morocco

To be announced.



KN05
Dilrukshi Thavarajah
Clemson University, USA

Dr. Dilrukshi Thavarajah is an Assistant Professor at Clemson University, South Carolina, USA, where she currently leads the university’s pulse and vegetable biofortification research program to combat malnutrition and obesity. She started the first USA Pulse Quality and Nutrition Laboratory at North Dakota State University, Fargo, North Dakota, USA in 2010.

Thavarajah has a Ph.D in Plant Physiology (2006) and a Masters in Soil Science (2002) from the University of Saskatchewan, Canada, plus a Bachelors in Soil Science from the University of Peradeniya, Sri Lanka (1996). She is internationally recognized as a leader in lentil mineral biofortification, especially for iron and selenium. She has an active research collaboration with HarvestPlus (Gates Foundation), ICARDA (Morocco), and World Vegetable Center in Australia, India, and Sri Lanka. She advises graduate and undergraduate students, serves as an honorary visiting lecturer at the University of Peradeniya, Sri Lanka and as an advisor to the ICARDA Lentil Bio-fortification program.

Thavarajah has a wide interest in understanding the



KN06
Rajeev K Varshney
International Crops Research
Institute for the Semi-Arid
Tropics (ICRISAT)

Rajeev Varshney is a Global Research Program Director of Genetic Gains at ICRISAT. His role encompasses a variety of disciplines, including Genebank, Pre-Breeding, Genomics & Trait Discovery, Cell & Molecular Biology and Genetic Engineering, Forward and Integrated Breeding, and Seed Systems. He has been serving ICRISAT for last 10 years in various capacities. Varshney is also currently a Winthrop Research Professor at The University of Western Australia. He served the CGIAR Generation Challenge Program as Theme Leader for six years.

Varshney recently won the Shanti Swarup Bhatnagar Award for Biological Sciences, the most prestigious award from the Government of India. He is internationally recognized for his contribution in genome sequencing of pigeon-pea, chickpea, peanut, pearl millet, sesame, mungbean, and adzuki bean and the development of molecular breeding products in chickpea, pigeonpea and peanut. Rajeev has received several prestigious awards including Research Excellence India Citation Award 2015 by Thomson Reuters and numerous Young Scientist awards.

Varshney is an Elected Fellow of the Crop Science Society of America, as well as leading science academies of India, including the Indian National Science Academy, The National Academy of Sciences, India (NASI), and more.



KN07
Thomas Sinclair
 North Carolina State
 University, USA

Dr. Thomas R. Sinclair is a visiting professor in agronomy at the University of Florida and an adjunct professor in Crop Science at North Carolina State University. Raised on a farm in Indiana, he received Bachelors and Masters degrees from Purdue University and a Ph.D. from Cornell University. Sinclair researches ways interactions between plant physiology and the environment determine crop yield.

Sinclair's research considers the influence of the abiotic environment on crop growth, development, and yield. His physiology studies include plant water relations, symbiotic nitrogen fixation, carbon accumulation, and developmental processes. He has focused considerable attention on identifying genetic variation in these traits and using physiological information to expedite breeding efforts to enhance crop performance. Much of the results from his research were synthesized into a family of relatively simple crop models to simulate growth and yield.

Currently, Sinclair is focused on plant traits that might increase drought tolerance. He has pursued studies in Argentina, Australia, Israel, Italy, Japan, the Netherlands, New Zealand, and, as a Ballard Fellow, at Harvard University. Sinclair has written or edited six books, including Principles of Ecology in Plant Production, published over 330 scientific papers, including papers in Science and Nature, and has given over 200 oral presentations by invitation. Sinclair and his wife, Carol Janas Sinclair, recently finished the book manuscript Seeds of Change: History through Agriculture, Bread and Beer.



KN08
Hari Upadhyaya
 International Crops Research
 Institute for the Semi-Arid
 Tropics (ICRISAT)

Dr. Hari Upadhyaya has a PhD in Plant Breeding from GB Pant University of Agriculture and Technology, India. He started his career as postdoctoral fellow at ICRISAT and then became the Groundnut Breeder and Head of Oilseeds Program at the University of Agricultural Sciences, Raichur, India. He returned to ICRISAT and

worked to develop early maturing, drought and aflatoxin resistant, and high yielding oil groundnut varieties. Thirty of his varieties are now grown in 22 countries. Upadhyaya's seminal work on postulating the mini core concept is a recognized 'International Public Good', which led to the identification of climate-smart and seed nutrient dense germplasm.

Upadhyaya is a Fellow of the Crop Science Society of America and the American Society of Agronomy. He has been awarded the Crop Science Research Award and International Service in Crop Science Award, the Frank N Meyers Medal, Dr. Harbhajan Singh Memorial Award, and the Doreen Mashlerand and King Baudouin awards. Upadhyaya has coauthored over 700 articles, including over 280 peer reviewed journal articles, reviews, book chapters, and a genebank manual, plus he has edited two books.



KN09
Michael Blümmel
 International Livestock
 Research Institute (ILRI)

Dr. Michael Blümmel is senior scientist and team leader for feed research at ILRI in Ethiopia. He has a Doctorate in Science and a Habilitation degree from the University of Hohenheim, Germany and more than 25 years of experience in teaching, development, research and research management in Europe, the US, Africa, and Asia.

Blümmel's major research interests are feeding and feed resourcing at the interface of positive and negative effects from livestock, multi-dimensional crop improvement, crop-livestock interactions, and the establishment of equitable feed and fodder value chains.



KN10
William Erskine
 University of Western
 Australia

Dr. William Erskine is the Director of the Centre for Plant Genetics and Breeding at The University of Western Australia. Previously, for 27 years he worked at ICARDA in Syria as Assistant Director General of Research (2001-2007), Leader of the Germplasm Improvement Program (1998-2001), and as a Lentil Breeder (1980-1998). Scottish born, Erskine completed BA (1973) and Ph.D (1979) at the University of Cambridge, UK, plus MAg in Papua New Guinea (1976).

Erskine's research interests are broad within the theme of plant breeding for food security – both nationally and internationally. He currently leads the major 'Seeds of Life' project in Timor-Leste, which is funded by AusAid and ACIAR, an ACIAR project on legume intensification in rice systems in Bangladesh, and a project in Morocco on the pre-breeding of the pasture subterranean clover.

When Erskine led the ICARDA lentil breeding program, his research results included the release by national programs of a total of 99 lentil cultivars in 31 countries and the adoption of lentil technologies on hundreds of thousands of hectares globally. Erskine was given an award in 2005 by the Bangladesh Minister of Agriculture for the impact of ICARDA's lentil research in Bangladesh.

At the University of West Australia, Erskine has supervised 5 MSc and 4 PhD students. Previously, he supervised 7 PhD and 8 MSc students registered at the University of Helsinki (Finland), Durham (UK), the American University of Beirut (Lebanon), Jordan, and more.



KN11
Kadambot Siddique
University of Western
Australia

Kadambot Siddique is currently the Hackett Professor and Director of the University of Western Australia's Institute of Agriculture. He has 30 years of experience in agricultural research, teaching, and management in both Australia and overseas, especially in the fields of crop physiology, production agronomy, farming systems, genetic resources, and breeding research in cereal, grain and pasture legumes, and oilseed crops.

Siddique has published more than 300 scientific papers and book chapters. He has conducted research on adaptation of crops to water deficits and the phenological, morphological, physiological, biochemical and genetic traits that enable crops to cope with various abiotic stresses. Siddique and his collaborator's pioneering research on chickpea has contributed enormously to the Australian chickpea industry which is currently valued at more than USD \$500 million per year. He has trained many Honours, MSc and PhD students and is a visiting professor at a number of overseas universities.

In 2015, Siddique was elected as the International Fellow of the Indian Society of Plant Physiology and the Foreign Fellow of the Indian National Academy of Agricultural Sciences. He has received many awards, including the Western Australian of the Year Award for 2014 (Professions Category), the prestigious "Urrbrae

Memorial Award" for his contribution to Australian agricultural science and the industry, and a gold medal and citation from the former President of India, Dr A.P.J. Abdul Kalam, for his international contribution to agricultural science and education (2009). In 2011, he was made Member of the Order of Australia in Queen's Birthday Honours List.



KN12
P.V. Vara Prasad
Kansas State University, USA

Dr. P.V. Vara Prasad is the Director of Feed the Future Sustainable Intensification Innovation Lab at Kansas State University, which is funded by USAID. He is also a professor of Crop Ecophysiology in the Department of Agronomy at Kansas State University. He obtained his B.S. and M.S. degrees from Andhra Pradesh Agricultural University in India, and his Ph.D. from the University of Reading in the United Kingdom.

Prasad's research focuses on understanding responses of food crops to climate change and developing crop, water and soil management strategies for efficient use of inputs and to improve crop yields. He is committed to innovate and collaborative on international research that improves livelihoods and provides food and nutritional security to smallholder farmers. He has active research and capacity building programs in several countries in Asia and Africa.

Prasad has published over 140 peer-reviewed journal articles and book chapters and his research has been cited over 4,300 times. He has trained 100 international research scholars and graduate students. Prasad has received several noteworthy awards, including International Educator of the Year, Excellence in Graduate Teaching Award, and Distinguished Graduate Faculty Award from Kansas State University. He was named a Fellow of the American Society of Agronomy and the Crop Science Society of America.



KN13
Diego Rubiales
Spanish National Research
Council (CSIC)

Diego Rubiales is currently a professor at the Institute for Sustainable Agriculture, CSIC. He is also the President of the International Legume Society and was formerly the President of the European Grain Legume Association and a member of the Executive Committee of the International Parasitic Plant Society.

Rubiales has co-authored a total of 268 articles in journals with IF on various aspects of disease resistance and management during his career, with a special focus on disease resistance. He has directed 25 successful PhD and 6 Masters theses. In addition to these research activities, Rubiales has lead pea and faba bean breeding programs, resulting in registration of two faba bean and three pea cultivars. He has an H index of 36.

Rubiales has extensive experience in participation and coordination of research both at the EU and Mediterranean level. Previously, he has been the coordinator of a FP5 EU project (EUFABA), FP7-ARIMNet (MEDILEG), COST action (COST849), FP7-PEOPLE-2009-IOF, and a WP leader in a FP6 EU Integrated Project (GLIP), FP6-ERANet (LEGRESIST), in two F7 projects (ABSTRESS and LEGATO), and in one Australian GRDC project. He has lead 16 Spanish research projects and 13 bilateral projects with North African countries; he is currently participating in two Canadian projects.

ORAL PRESENTATION SPEAKERS



OP4
Esther Njuguna-Mungai
ICRISAT, Nairobi

Dr. Njuguna is currently the gender research coordinator for CGIAR Research Program on Grain legumes, based at ICRISAT in Nairobi. She is a graduate of Wageningen University and Research Centre in Development Economics and doctorate from University of Nairobi in Agricultural Development and Economics. She worked at the Social Economics and Applied Statistics Division of the Kenya Agricultural Research Institute in different capacities for 15 years. Most recently, she coordinated research, leading the gender and participatory market research streams, in a joint project implemented by KARI and McGill University – Innovating for Resilient Farming Systems in Eastern Kenya.



OP05
Noel Ellis
New Zealand

Research interests of Dr. Noel Ellis have focused on the genetic basis of the inter- and intra-specific evolution and diversification of legumes at both genomic and phenotypic levels. A core activity has been to develop approaches for the isolation of genes identified by their phenotype.

Legume crops have a unique role in nutrition and enhancing soil fertility: the challenge of providing nutritious and wholesome food for nine billion people, with minimal environmental disruption, requires that legumes are a significant component of our diet and agriculture.

Research networks are needed in science, for economies and to combine disparate disciplines. Ellis established and coordinated an EU FP6 integrated project 'Grain

Legumes' (2004-2008) involving 80 labs in 25 countries) which ranged from life cycle analysis of economic and environmental impact to genome sequencing. He also led and coordinated CGIAR's activities in grain legumes (2013 - 2015).



OP07
Rebecca McGee
USDA-ARS, Washington State University (WSU)

Rebecca McGee is a USDA-ARS Research Geneticist located at WSU in Pullman, Washington. She received a B.S. from the University of Washington, an M.S. from the University of Alaska and a Ph.D. from Oregon State University. Prior to joining the ARS, she was a Principal Scientist at General Mills, Inc. and directed the vegetable legume breeding programs. Currently, her research focuses on breeding cool season food legumes, primarily spring- and autumn-sown peas and lentils. The priorities of her breeding program include breeding for resistance to biotic and abiotic stresses and mineral biofortification. During her career in both the private and public sectors, she has contributed to the release of more than 35 varieties of peas and lentils. She is a member of the Executive Committee of the North American Pulse Improvement Association, the Chair of the Pisum Crop Germplasm Committee, and serves on the editorial board of the Journal of Plant Registrations.

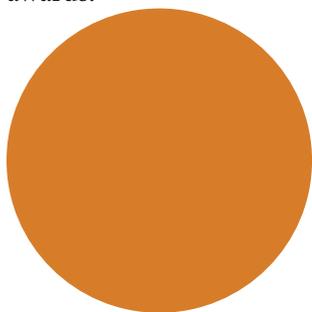


OP16
Aditya Pratap
Indian Institute of Pulses Research, India

Dr. Aditya Pratap has an illustrious career in crop improvement research. His research interests include distant hybridization, doubled haploidy breeding, plant tissue culture, and molecular breeding. Since about 12 years, he has been working on genetic improvement of mungbean, chickpea and rapeseed-mustard and

contributed in development of 7 popular varieties including 3 of green gram and 1 of facultative winter wheat. He has also developed 2 extra early mungbean genotypes maturing in <52 days and identified 2 photo- and thermo insensitive Vigna accessions. He has accomplished morphological and molecular characterization of Vigna species, marker assisted introgression of resistance to fusarium wilt in chickpea, mapping and tagging of MYMIV resistance gene in blackgram, and development of haploidy breeding protocol in triticales through wheat x Imperata cylindrica system.

Pratap has 5 books to his credit and more than 130 articles, including 45 research publications in high impact journals and 40 book chapters. He is a recipient of prestigious ICAR-Lal Bahadur Shastri Outstanding Young Scientist Award-2014 and the Norman E. Borlaug International Agricultural Science and Technology Fellowship in 2011, besides having won several other awards.



OP17
Masood Ali
Indian Council of Agricultural
Research (ICAR), India

Dr. Masood Ali is a renowned pulse agronomist. He served as Director of the Indian Institute of Pulses Research, Kanpur during 1999-2009 and Technical Adviser (Pulses) under National Seeds Corporation of India (2011-12). Presently, he is a member of the Executive Committee of the National Food Security Mission, Govt. of India. Dr. Ali has 38 years of rich experience in food legume research and management.

Dr. Ali has published over 335 research/scientific papers, and edited/authored 14 books and 14 research bulletins. In recognition of his outstanding contribution in pulses research and development, dry land crop management practices and cropping system research, he has been honoured with several national and international prestigious awards. He served as President of the Indian Society of Pulses Research and Development for 7 years. Dr. Ali is fellow of several academies/societies including the National Academy of Agricultural Sciences.



OP20
María José Suso
Spanish National Council of
Research (CSIC)

Dr. Maria Suso completed her PhD at University of Cordoba and is currently Research Scientist with tenure at the Department of Plant Breeding in the Institute of Sustainable Agriculture (IAS) of the CSIC.

She has been working in the field of legume crop improvement and pollination for pollinator-friendly cultivar development, genetic resources germplasm conservation and management, and local adaptation for low-input and organic agriculture.

In the last five years, Suso has worked as Spanish Project Leader of two EU-funded collaborative projects 1) Strategies for organic and low-input integrated breeding and management (SOLIBAM) (2010- 2014) and 2) Embedding crop diversity and networking for local high quality food systems (2015-2019).

Suso has been nominated by the UN Environment Programme as expert reviewer of thematic assessment of pollinators, pollination and food production for the Intergovernmental Platform on Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services. She has also been nominated by the European Commission as expert for the European Innovation Partnerships - Focus Group on Genetic Resources- Cooperation Models. She is Member of the Spanish National Commission for the Evaluation and Registration of Forage and Grain Legumes Varieties. (2012-2015).



OP26
Sameer Kumar
ICRISAT

Dr C. V. Sameer Kumar has Ph. D in Genetics and Plant Breeding with 23 years of research experience in the field of agriculture. He has expertise in breeding and seed production of rice, maize, Sorghum, pearl millet, greengram, blackgram, rapeseed, pigeonpea, castor, sesame, sunflower, safflower, peanut and cotton. He was involved in development and release of 7 varieties and 3 hybrids in pigeonpea, 3 varieties in sorghum, one hybrid in pearl millet, 2 hybrids in castor, 3 varieties in safflower and 3 varieties in peanut.

Kumar has published 75 research papers in peer reviewed journals. He served as advisor for 5 post graduates and 7 MS students in the field of agriculture. He is a member of several scientific societies and handled successfully several national and international projects. Currently, he is working as pigeonpea lead at ICRISAT and involved in the field of crop improvement through conventional and genomic assisted breeding.

During the last five years, she has assisted the European Commission in tasks/external evaluation related to its research programme FP7- KBBE-2010. She has been reviewer for scientific journals (Journal of Heredity, European Journal of Biology, Field Crops Research, Euphytica, Crop Science, Agriculture, Ecosystems and Environment). She lead and co-authored several peer-reviewed international high impact journals (e.g. Field Crops Research, Euphytica, Frontiers in Plant Science...), book chapters and other publications.

CABI, Oxfordshire and “Alien Gene Transfer in Crop Plants: Innovations, Methods and Risk Assessment” published by Springer, New York, USA.



OP32
Om Gupta
Jawaharlal Nehru Krishi
Vishwavidyalaya (JNKVV),
India

Dr. Gupta joined JNKVV as Senior Research Assistant under All India Coordinated Pulse Improvement Project in 1977 and rose to the post of Dean, College of Agriculture in 2015. She has devoted her career to studying diseases of pulses, particularly chickpea. She has received numerous awards and recognition for herself and her team for her outstanding contribution to chickpea research; these include Best Presentation Award and Recognition Award by Indian Society of Pulses Research and Development, CGIAR’S King Baudonin Award (2002), ICRISAT’S Doreen Mashler Award (2002), ICAR’S Best Centre Performance Award (2006), and Millennium ICRISAT Science Award (2008).

Gupta was associated with the development of several varieties of chickpea, both desi and kabuli and of moongbean, many of which are released for use in her state and other states. She is a Fellow of three professional societies: Indian Phytopathological Society, Society of Mycology and Plant Pathology, and Indian Society of Pulses Research and Development. She was nominated for Zonal Councillor of Indian Phyto pathological Society and Society of Mycology and Plant pathology.

Dr. Gupta has published more than 75 research papers in Indian and foreign journals, apart from technical bulletins, manuals, book chapters and several review papers. She has guided 45 MS and 6 PhD students as main advisor/co-advisor/member advisory committee. Gupta was also leading National Chickpea Pathology Programme as Principal Investigator under All India Coordinated Research Project on Chickpea from 2007-2015.



OP34
Lamiae Ghaouti
Institut Agronomique et
Vétérinaire (IAV) Hassan II,
Morocco

Dr. Ghaouti is lecturer and researcher in the Unit of Crop Genetics, Breeding and Biotechnology at IAV Hassan II in Rabat. Her field of expertise is breeding research and applied genetics with a focus on faba bean. She is



OP28
Jitendra Kumar
Indian Institute of Pulses
research (IIPR), India

Dr. Jitendra Kumar is presently working as Senior Scientist in the Division of Crop Improvement at IIPR, Kanpur. He has an excellent research career throughout. He joined Department of Genetics and Plant Breeding of CCS in 1992 and completed his MS degree in 1994, securing a gold medal. He pursued his Ph.D. in Genetics & Plant Breeding from G. B. Pant University of Agriculture & Technology, Pantnagar, India. He was awarded CSIR-Research Associateship during 2003-2005 for postdoctoral studies at the Institute of Integrative Medicine, Jammu (India).

Kumar has more than 14 years of research experience in genetic improvement using both conventional and molecular marker-assisted breeding approaches on various crops including sunflower, medicinal and aromatic, cereal and pulse crops. During this period, he undertook study tours of several countries including Austria, Syria, Bangladesh, Nepal, Lebanon and Canada. He has developed high-yielding varieties of lentil and several others are in pipeline. His current priorities include involvement of molecular marker technology in conventional lentil breeding programme for making genetic improvement towards biotic and abiotic stresses.

Kumar has more than 120 publications including research and review articles in reputed national and international journals, book chapters, meeting reports, popular articles, and bulletins. He has also co-edited four books including “Biology and Breeding of Food Legumes” published by

currently leading Morocco MEDILEG project which is an ARIMNET project that involves several countries from South Europe and North Africa. She received her PhD degree in 2007 from the University of Göttingen in Germany in the field of plant genetics. Ghaouti was awarded with Kurt von Rümker Prize in Quedlinburg, Germany.

Before joining IAV Hassan II, Ghaouti was working as research assistant to the Department of Crop Science, Georg-August University, Göttingen in Germany. She also held the position of legume plant breeder and member of the research department at NPZ, KG (Germany), a plant breeding company.



OP39
Eva Madrid
Max Planck Institute for Plant
Breeding Research (MIPZ),
Germany

Dr. Madrid is a postdoc researcher at MIPZ (Max Planck Institute for Plant Breeding Research) in Cologne, Germany. She has more than 10 years of experience in legume molecular genetics. Her main research interests are classical and marker-assisted breeding, quantitative Trait Loci (QTL) analysis for disease resistance with the final aim of using molecular markers to tag genes of interest, genetic maps development, development of new tools to improve breeding for disease resistance in the food legumes, particularly fusarium wilt and ascochyta blight of chickpea and utilization of next generation sequencing technologies for the identification of genes controlling traits of interest.

Currently, Madrid is supervising Master degree and PhD students, as well as collaborating in teaching plant biotechnology to MS students at the University of Cordoba (UCO). Her previous research group, located at UCO (Spain), is one of the leaders in the development of the chickpea genetic maps. Her research was focused primarily on the identification of gene(s) and QTLs controlling resistance to ascochyta blight, fusarium wilt and rust. She was also involved in the transcriptome assembly of faba bean for the identification of genes related with blight resistance. As a result of her work, molecular markers are being used in breeding programs (Spain and Tunisia) to select resistant chickpea genotypes.



OP35
S. Srinivasan
ICRISAT

Dr. S. Srinivasan completed MSc in Genetics and Plant Breeding in 2005 from Acharya N.G. Ranga Agricultural University, Hyderabad, India and PhD in 2010 from University of Western Australia, Australia.

Srinivasan joined ICRISAT as a Scientist in November 2013. Prior to this, he has worked with ICRISAT in chickpea breeding as a Visiting scientist and Special Project Scientist from 2011-13. He was awarded top Australian scholarships in his postgraduate studies and Outstanding Partnership Award-Asia in 2015. He has more than 30 research publications, book chapters and monographs to his credit. His main research interests include development of climate-resilient varieties, varieties suitable for mechanical harvesting and enhancement of genetic diversity through integrated breeding and genomics approaches in chickpea.



OP37
Weidong Chen
USDA-ARS, Washington State
University

Dr. Weidong Chen is a research plant pathologist with USDA Agricultural Service and adjunct professor of plant pathology at Washington State University. His research focuses on mechanisms and management of fungal diseases of cool season grain legumes.