

# Dr Harishchandra Prasad Singh

## A brief biographical sketch



**Dr H.P. Singh**, Chairman, ASSOCHAM Council on Agriculture and Food Security, with rare combination of scientific excellence, conscientious administration, dynamic management skills and academic depth of par excellence, has provided a leadership in horticulture / agriculture research, education and development. Borne on 2<sup>nd</sup> July, 1950, in Mahamda, (Pusa), Samastipure, Bihar, in a farming family, a place, where Imperial Agricultural Research Institute was established in 1905, now known as Pusa Institute (Indian Agricultural Research Institute), Pusa, New Delhi, Dr Singh graduated in Agriculture from BHU, Varanasi, in 1969 and obtained his postgraduate degree in horticulture, with gold medal, from, the then, Rajendra Agricultural University, Pusa, Sabour campus, in 1971. He earned his Ph D in Horticulture, from UHS, Bangalore, with distinction and Orissa University of Agriculture and Technology, Bhubaneswar, conferred D.Sc. (*Honoris causa*) to Dr Singh in 2010. He had his training on various aspects of agriculture in India and abroad, including a training on **Leadership in Agriculture**, at **IMD Business school, Lausanne, Switzerland**. Now, with a rich experience in research, development, academics and corporate governance, Dr Singh is providing guidance and direction for technology-led development of agriculture through integrated efforts of all the stake holders including industry, academic institutions and farmers.

## Career Graph

Dr H P Singh, starting his career, in 1972 at CHES, Chethalli, Kodagu, Karnataka, as Scientist, served horticulture/agriculture in various capacities, namely, Sr Scientist, CHES, Ranchi(1981-1988), **Project Coordinator** (Fruits) IIHR, Bangalore(1988-1996); **Director**, National Research Centre for Banana, Trichy, Tamil Nadu(1993-1997); **Horticulture Commissioner**, Govt. of India, Ministry of Agriculture, New Delhi(1997-2003); **Chairman**, Coconut Development Board, Kochi(1998-99, 2001-2004, additional charge); **Dean** (Agriculture), GBPUA&T, Pantnagar; (2004-2005); **Vice-Chancellor**, RAU, Pusa(2005-2007); **Deputy Director General** (Horticulture), ICAR, New Delhi(2007-2012). Additionally, he also served as **DDG(Ag Ext.)**, **Member Secretary**, NCPH New Delhi, **Director, Horticulture**, Government of Uttarakhand and many other positions in addition to regular post held by him. He occupied the positions in many international organisations, like, the **Chairman** of APCC, Jakarta, **National Director** for internationally-aided projects and Chairperson of Steering Committee, BAPNET, Bioversity International, Rome. Visionary approach of Dr Singh, with zeal and commitment for achieving excellence and exemplary skills of management have brought dynamisms to the positions, which ever, wherever he held. His contribution has lead to optimization of output, outcome and delivery. He is prime mover for horticulture research and development in India and is an architect of the horticulture revolution. Currently, he is serving agriculture as Adjunct Professor, Director of the Board of Directors of agriculture related corporate industries, chairman and executive member in ASSOCHAM, Independent Director of the Board of JISL, Jalgaon and **Chief Advisor** to ASM Foundation, New Delhi. He is also the **Founder and Chairman**, of the **Confederation of Horticulture Associations of India(CHAI)**, committed for accelerating the economic growth, and, is providing innovative solutions to emerging challenges though interaction and dissemination of knowledge and demonstration of science based technologies.

## Experience with International Organisations

Dr Singh, besides holding various positions at national level, has his recognition internationally, as he held many positions, chaired various international committee and delivered key note and plenary lectures in international and global conferences and symposia. He was the **Chairman**, of National Project Steering Committee of the UNEP/GEF TFT Project of Bioversity International on Conservation of Tropical Fruits (2008 – 2012.), **Chairman**, Steering Committee of a Joint project on mango, India -

Oman (2009-12), **Chairman**, Steering Committee of BAPNET, Biodiversity International, Rome (2008-10), **Chairman**, Asia Pacific Coconut Community (APCC), Jakarta (2000-2001), Vice-Chairman, APCC (1999-2000), **Chairman**, Review Committee, Asia Pacific Coconut Community (APCC), Jakarta (2001-2003). **Chairman**, Task Force on Organic Farming, APCC, Jakarta/ (1999-2000). National Project Director, FAO Project on Apple (Jan 2003 to Dec. 2003) National Project Director, FAO Project on Banana (2002-2003). National Project Director, FAO project on Green House cultivation of flowers, (1999-2001), National Coordinator for INIBAP project on IMTP/ ASPNET (1994-1998) and **Chairperson** for Global/International Conferences. He has been a leader and member of Indian Delegations abroad on many occasions. He is also Resource speaker and invitee in conferences and meetings abroad. Dr Singh has travelled widely in more than 40 countries in various capacity and now, is providing advise to many Multinational companies.

### **Administrative Experience and Skills**

Dr Singh, in his career spanning more than **42 years has outstandingly** contributed as researcher, academician, research manager, administrator and advisor. His experience in administration and management is in different departments, i.e. ICAR, DOAC, GBPUA&T and RAU, Pusa, Samastipur, Bihar. Techno Administration of Horticultural research and development through coordination and monitoring of 23 institutes/Directorates/NRC's and 14 AICRPs was done by Dr Singh. As an academician, he provided guidance to the students of Doctoral and Master degree programmes. He brought new dimension to education by establishing education management units. His initiatives of value added education, course planning and diversified experiential learning have been exemplary. Skills of crisis management, solution to problem and creation of harmony and academic environment provided by Dr Singh are of par excellence. He has also been responsible for administrative guidance to National Research and Development in the country and also abroad. He also guided in conceptualization, formulation and implementation of national and international programs used as role model concept for management of Institution of learning.

Dr Singh has mastered his skills in Agricultural Research, Education and Knowledge Management. His skills of Policy Planning, Program Development and Execution are of par excellence. Monitoring, Analysis of Production, Policy and Planning for Improvement have been skillfully demonstrated by Dr Singh on various positions. Dr Singh has unparalleled skills in Event planning and resource management. Academics depth and Human resource Development and management, of Dr Singh are also of par excellence.

### **Organising Capacity and Leadership**

Dr. Singh has provided new dimension to team building, motivation and up scaling of output and outcome. He has been Leader/Principle Investigator in large number of projects, both at national and international level. He is an organizer of par excellence. He brought new initiatives and innovations through organization of interaction and brainstorming workshops/meetings and is **credited to have organised 25 international conferences, 105 national conferences and workshop and many interactive knowledge sharing meetings.**

### **Committee Assignment**

Dr Singh has chaired and several national and international committees. He was the **Chairman** of committee constituted by the Ministry of Food Processing Industries for assessing the needs and means of potato processing. He was the Chairman of the committee on **Organic Farming** for developing standards, consecutively for six years. Dr. Singh chaired many committees in the Ministry of agriculture. He was also the **Chairman** of Advisory committee of NHRDF, Nasik. He was the **Board member** in Central Agricultural University, Imphal and also GBPU&T, Pantnagar. Dr Singh was **Member Secretary** for committee constituted by planning commission for the formulation of ix plan and member in planning of x xi and xii plan. He was also the member in Board of APEDA, NHB, Spices Board and Coffee Board. Dr Singh was the Chairman of committee constituted by Ministry of Agriculture to review the Organic Farming in India. **Dr Singh chaired Academic Council**, Research Council and the Board at RAU, Pusa . In ICAR he chaired many committee to develop plans and processes. He was the Member Secretary of **Task Force on Micro Irrigation and submitted the report to the then honorable Prime Minister.** At international level Dr. Singh has been chairman of many committees. Currently, he is a Board member in many academic and corporate institutions.

## Major Achievements

Dr Singh has outstandingly contributed to research, education and development through development of new cultivars, technologies, infrastructures, development of new programs and policies. He is credited to have established 5 colleges of agriculture/horticulture/management and many regional centres of the institutes; He established 6 new Directorates; Developed research programs with internal and external support to address challenges. As the **Dean and the Vice Chancellor**, he developed new curricula and evaluation system for students and faculties; Brought the concept of **value added education** and new concept of agricultural education; Conceived, developed and executed **National Horticulture Mission, Coconut Mission and Bamboo Mission**. He is credited to have established precision farming centers across the country, for the development and demonstration of fertigation, greenhouse production system and technology for precise use of inputs to optimise the output. Programme and policy of cold storage, organic farming, value chain management, micro irrigation, protected cultivation and alternate marketing are credited to Dr Singh; He Implemented FAO assisted, 5 projects, developed the regulatory frame work for organic farming and accreditation system. He is credited to have established linkages and collaboration with many national and international organization, which has been a landmark in the development of horticulture, As scientist and Project Coordinators he is credited to have developed 17 cultivars of fruits, many breeding lines and more than 65 technologies for production systems and value addition. He was instrumental in the establishment and development of NRC for Banana, Trichy, as founder Director. He is also credited to have developed Central Horticulture Experiment Station, Ranchi, since its inception. Achievements of Dr Singh have become a synonym to current days horticulture, which is often referred as Golden Revolution. Now, since last 4 years, he is providing policy direction to industries engaged in agriculture through consultations and surfacing the issues for its readdressal by the Government. He is also engaged as independent director in corporate industries engaged in agriculture. As chairman of CHAI, Dr Singh, providing technical solution to farmers through consultative workshops on topical issues, besides dissemination of knowledge through publication Journal and books

## Contribution to private and corporate Sector

Dr Singh has been associated with private sectors, NGOs and Farmers. He is in Board of Directors in companies associated with agriculture to provide technical guidance for technology led development. He is Chief advisor to ASM Foundation, who promotes agriculture for economic growth in association with farmers across the country. The Foundation is associated with thousand of farmers by providing knowledge on new technology and inputs of high yielding varieties and quality planting material. The Foundation is also honouring scientists, entrepreneurs, academicians and farmers. Interactive forum of all the stake holders is created by organising symposia and meetings. Technology-led development of farmer is also persuaded through knowledge sharing workshops by Dr Singh as the chairman of Confederation of Horticulture Associations of India. He is associated in launching of new journal- **International Journal of Innovative Horticulture** and is promoting the skill development through training of farmers and students.

## Awards and Recognitions

Dr Singh has peer recognitions for his outstanding contributions to Research, Education and Developments nationally and internationally. He is a recipient of **3 International awards, 39 National Awards and 9 Fellowships including the Fellow of National Academy of Agricultural Sciences for his outstanding contribution to research, education and development**. He is recipient of Doctor of Science (*Honoris Causa*) from Orissa University of Agriculture & Technology, Bhubneswar.. Dr Singh, an icon and **doyen of Indian horticulture**, has steered the horticulture research, education and development in India for more than 4 decades which has resulted in appreciation of horticulture as an engine of economic growth, which has been recognized by conferring **Man of the Decades**.

## Outlook for Agriculture Research in Global Perspective

With his specialisation in horticulture and working experience in agriculture Dr. Singh has an excellent analytical ability, ideas and likely solutions to address the challenges both at National and International level. He is credited to have initiated many policy issues both for research and development, which made agriculture research, education and development vibrant and created an impact across the country. His wide vision and commitment have been instrumental in bringing

dynamism to achieve many goals. He successfully planned and executed the Technology Mission in Horticulture, technology mission on Micro irrigation, and many international programmes and projects. He is currently implementing various programs in farmers fields integrating research and development by creating a forum for interaction of all the stakeholders.

### **Scholastic Acumen**

Significant and incredible imprint of Dr Singh has been his monumental contribution to the horticulture literature. **He has authored and edited 60 books, 40 bulletins, many technical reports and over 350** articles and book chapters, His books on Banana, Coconut, Organic farming, Coordinated research, Ginger, Turmeric, Black pepper, Horticulture development and series on Advances in Horticulture Biotechnology have earned national and international recognition. His book on Nano Technology and Diagnostics are first of its kind in series. Contribution of Dr Singh to education is remarkable in terms of academics and creation of infrastructure, He has been instrumental in bringing new dimension to horticulture education and skills development and also introducing e-learning.

### **Nurturing Professional Societies**

Dr Singh is always remembered for establishing and nurturing many professional societies/associations. He has been Chairman, President, vice-president, and General Secretary of many professional societies. He is credited to have established 5 Societies and has association with more than 9 societies in various capacities. He is currently the Chairman of Confederation of Horticulture Association of India, and Association for the Improvement in Production and Utilization of Banana (AIPUB) and Indian Society of Ornamental Horticulture. He was President of Association for the Improvement in Production and Utilization of Banana (AIPUB), Trichy, 2008 - 2012; President - Indian Society of Horticultural Research and Development, Almora, Uttarakhand, India, 2009 -2012; President - Confederation of Horticulture Associations of India; Sr. Vice-President - Indian Society of Vegetable Science; Vice-President - Horticulture Society of India; General Secretary, AIPUB, Trichy; Editor-in-Chief, International Journal of Innovative Horticulture. Life Member - HSI, Delhi; HSC, Ranchi; SIH, Coimbatore; HSG, Navsari, SPOPRD, Pedavegi, AP; ISPG, Kasaragod, ISVS, Varanasi; ISOH, New Delhi; Chief Patron/patron - in 15 professional associations.

### **Mission, Vision And Motto**

- Achieve technology- led development of to improve the quality of life of people dependent on agriculture/horticulture.
- Sustainable Development of climate smart Horticulture/Agriculture for food, nutrition, livelihood options and environmental services.
- Dr Singh believes that **even the best could be improved.**

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