

Short Biographical Note

Dr. Balraj Singh, Director, NRCSS, Ajmer (Raj.)

Dr Balraj Singh is presently working as Director, National Research Centre on Seed Spices (NRCSS), Ajmer and he is the President of the Indian Society of Seed Spices. He is doctorate in vegetable Crops and well known scientist in the field of **vegetables and protected cultivation**. In the initial ten years period of his carrier, he worked in All India Co-ordinated Research Project on Vegetables and developed several production technologies. Recently he got international training on “Leadership and Decision making” at world’s most prestigious management institute, **Harvard Kennedy School at Harvard University, Cambridge USA**. During 2000 he also participated in training on ‘**Horticultural crop production under climatic constraints**’ at **Faculty of Agriculture, Hebrew University, Rehovot, Israel**. He has been the member of the pioneer team that implemented Protected Cultivation Technology in India under **the Indo-Israeli collaborative project established in the year 1999**. Later the project took shape of the Centre for Protected Cultivation Technology (**CPCT**), **IARI, New Delhi** where he worked for more than 13 years and also headed the same for more than 4 years. He has standardized numerous low cost and energy efficient protected cultivation technologies suitable for different **agro-climatic conditions for Indian farmers** to bring up vegetable production at new heights. He achieved vast research experience on hi-tech horticulture by handling many in-house, externally funded and inter-institutional projects. I have also been **Consortia Principal Investigator of NAIP project** of 1.0 million USD funded by World Bank on ‘Protected Cultivation of High Quality Vegetables and Cut Flowers: A Value Chain Approach’. As a resource person, has been a member of various Working Groups formed in few Indian States for implementation of Protected Cultivation and Hi-Tech Vegetable Farming. During 25 years of his professional carrier, he has acquired valuable experience in **research, teaching, HRD, and extension** in field of vegetable crops and protected cultivation. My contributions are well recognized both at international and national forums through various awards and recognitions. He is the **founder Secretary of the Indian Society for Protected Cultivation** and **Fellow member** of Academy of Sciences, Engineering and Technology; Indian Society of Seed Technology; Horticulture Society of India, Indian Society of Vegetable Science, Indian Society of Seed Spices. Dr Singh has guided several post graduate and Ph. D. Students as chairman and member of the advisory committee at Indian Agricultural Research Institute, New Delhi and at NRCSS, Ajmer. He has published more than 100 **research papers** and **33 book chapters** in national and international journals & books of repute. He has also written more than **100 technical and popular articles** to disseminate the developed technologies among farmers and stakeholders of the country. Dr Singh is also the author of the first Indian text book on ‘**Protected Cultivation of Vegetable Crops**’ and also author of a edited book on “**Advances on Protected Cultivation**” forwarded by **Dr. A.P.J. Abdul Kalam, the Hon’ble Ex-President of India**. He has conducted more than **50 national and international training programmes** for scientist, professionals and farmers on various aspects like Hi-tech nursery raising in vegetables, advances in protected cultivation of vegetables, plant protection of horticultural crops under protected conditions, seed production in vegetables etc. He has standardized several vegetable crop production & seed production technologies for open field and protected conditions. Under his leadership the NRC on Seed Spices, Ajmer has achieved new heights in R&D in last two years and got **ISO 9001:2008** accreditation for providing laboratory analysis,

seed spices research and development and consultancy, training and transfer of technology to stake holders.