

**Dr Gurdev Singh Khush Foundation for Advancement of Agricultural Sciences is pleased to confer**

**“Dr Darshan Singh Brar Award in Agriculture-2026”**

To

Dr. Tilak Raj Sharma, ICAR-National Professor, ICAR-NIPB, IARI, New Delhi, in recognition of his outstanding contributions to rice improvement over more than three decades.

Dr Sharma has made pioneering contributions to the identification, mapping and cloning of blast resistance gene Pi54, its alleles Pi54rh and Pi54of from wild relatives and a major QTL for resistance to sheath blight in rice. His research has significantly advanced molecular breeding for disease resistance and contributed to the development of improved rice varieties which are being widely cultivated.

He has also played an important role in several landmark genome sequencing initiatives, contributing to the decoding of the genomes of rice, tomato, pigeonpea, jute, mango and tea, as well as several plant pathogens.

A distinguished mentor, Dr Sharma has guided 32 Ph.D. students, published over 225 peer-reviewed research papers, authored five books, and holds seven Indian patents.

In recognition of his exceptional contributions to agricultural science, Dr Sharma has received numerous national honours and is an elected Fellow of the Indian National Science Academy (INSA), Indian Academy of Sciences (IASc), National Academy of Sciences, India (NASI), and National Academy of Agricultural Sciences (NAAS).