



Dr. Gurdev Singh Khush Foundation for Advancement of Agricultural Sciences

Punjab Agricultural University, Ludhiana-141004

March 2026

Newsletter

No. 8

Dr. Gurdev Singh Khush Foundation for the Advancement of Agricultural Sciences was established in 2010 at Punjab Agricultural University (PAU) with a generous donation by Dr. G.S. Khush.

Dr. Khush, a distinguished PAU alumnus, is a world-renowned geneticist and plant breeder who dedicated 35 years (1967-2002) to groundbreaking research at the International Rice Research Institute (IRRI) in Manila, Philippines. Under his leadership, more than 300 rice varieties were developed, which are being cultivated on 60% of the world's rice-growing land. Widely regarded as the chief architect of the Green Revolution in rice, his pioneering contributions have transformed global food security.

His contributions have been recognized globally with 19 national and 13 international awards, which include Japan Prize, World Food Prize, Rank Prize (UK), Borlaug Award, Wolf Prize in Agriculture (Israel), Golden Sickle Award (Thailand), Mahathir Science Award (Malaysia), and Honorary Doctorate degree from 16 universities, including Cambridge University (UK), Ohio State University (USA), McGill University (Canada). PAU was the first university to confer Honorary Doctorate Degree on Dr Khush in 1987. Dr. Khush is a fellow of 12 esteemed scientific academies, including the U.S. National Academy of Sciences (Foreign Associate, 1989) and the Royal Society of London (1995).

Dr. G.S. Khush Foundation is recognized as a charitable society under Section 12AA(1)(b)(i) of the Income Tax Act, 1961, as per the Commissioner of Income Tax's approval (Letter No. CIT-III/JB/LDH/12A/307/2012-13, dated 24.08.2012).

For more details, visit the foundation's **official website:** www.khushfoundation.org.

Foundation Objectives

The main objectives of the Foundation are to provide financial support to promote education, research and training in agriculture. These include:

1. To provide scholarships to needy and meritorious students of PAU, GADVASU, and other academic institutions, especially those belonging to rural areas of Punjab State.
2. To award travel grants for participation of young scientists and post-graduate students in scientific conferences.
3. To support team award for scientific excellence in transfer of technology to farmers.
4. To invite eminent scientists for delivering lectures and sharing their knowledge and experience with the faculty and students of PAU and GADVASU.

Foundation Activities

i) Awards

Dr. G.S. Khush Foundation confers the following awards:

1) G. S. Khush Merit Scholarship

This scholarship is awarded to meritorious undergraduate students enrolled in 10 UG programs across the five constituent colleges of PAU and 3 UG programs across the three constituent colleges of GADVASU, with a special emphasis on students from rural areas. Each scholarship includes a monetary award of Rs. 18,000 per annum along with a certificate. Additionally, the Foundation awards a scholarship of Rs. 10,000 per annum to a top-performing student at PAU Model High School, Kaoni, which operates under the administration of the Dean, College of Community Science, PAU, Ludhiana.



Dr. GS Khush, Chairman, Khush Foundation, Dr. Harwant Khush, Prof. Ramesh Chand, Sh. KS Pannu and other dignitaries distributing scholarships to the meritorious students of PAU

Number of scholarships awarded by Khush Foundation (2012-13 to 2024-25)

Programme	2012-19	2019-20	2020-21	2021-22	2022-23	2023-24	2024-25	Total
PAU, Ludhiana								
B.Sc Agri. (Hons.) 6-year	68	16	16	16	16	16	16	164
B.Sc Agri. (Hons.) 4-year	48	8	8	8	8	8	8	96
B.Sc Biotech (Hons.) 4-year	33	6	5	4	4	4	4	60
B.Tech Food Tech 4-year	17	4	4	4	4	4	4	41
B.Tech (Agri. Engg) 4-year	32	3	4	3	3	4	4	53
B.Sc (Home Science) 4-year	39	10	8	7	4	6	6	80
B.Sc (Horti.) 4-year	---	---	2	3	4	3	4	16
B.Sc Agri (Hons.) 4-year (BS)	---	---	---	---	---	1	4	5
B.Sc. (Hons.) ABM 4-year	---	---	---	---	---	1	1	2
M.Sc (Integrated) 5-year	38	9	8	8	2	---	---	65
GADVASU, Ludhiana								
B.V.Sc & A.H. 5-year	24	8	8	6	8	8	8	70
B.F.Sc 4-year	15	3	2	3	2	2	3	30
B.Tech (Dairy Tech) 4-year	16	6	5	3	2	3	3	38
PAU Model High School	---	---	---	---	---	1	1	2
Total	330	73	70	65	57	61	66	722

Since its inception, the Foundation has awarded 722 merit scholarships over the academic years, 2012-13 to 2024-25. Further, 73 scholarships have been approved for academic year 2025-26 and will be presented at the Foundation's annual function on March 18, 2026

2) G. S. Khush Travel Grants

The G.S. Khush Travel Grants support postgraduate (PG) students and young faculty members in presenting their research at scientific conferences in India and abroad. This grant enables recipients to share their findings and engage with researchers from around the world. Since its inception, the Foundation has awarded 164 travel grants (from 2014-15 to 2024-25).

3) G. S. Khush Team Award

The G. S. Khush Team Award recognizes outstanding achievements in technology transfer to farmers, aiming to strengthen ties between researchers and the farming

community. This award is presented to the best-performing extension team from Punjab Agricultural University (PAU) and includes a cash prize of Rs. 50,000 along with a citation. Since its inception, the Foundation has conferred four team awards (from 2014-15 to 2023-24).

The Selection Committee for each type of award comprises of Deans of the constituent colleges, Dean Post-graduate studies, Director Research, Director Extension Education, and representatives of Khush Foundation.

4) Dr. Darshan Singh Brar Award in Agriculture

Dr. Darshan Singh Brar Award in Agriculture is a prestigious award, bestowed upon an Indian scientist for outstanding contributions to the field of agriculture. The award is named after Dr. Darshan Singh Brar, an eminent geneticist and biotechnologist who made significant contributions to agricultural research and education. Dr Brar served as a faculty member at Punjab Agricultural University (PAU) from



Dr. GS Khush and other dignitaries distributing scholarships to the meritorious students of GADVASU



Dr. GS Khush, Prof. Ramesh Chand, Dr. Jaswinder Singh & Dr. AS Athwal distributing GS Khush travel grant award to one of the students

1973 to 1987, where he played a pioneering role in establishing biotechnology research and teaching programs. A dedicated mentor, he trained numerous students and young scientists, encouraging and supporting hundreds of them in pursuing Ph.D. degrees in advanced laboratories both in India and abroad.



Renowned for his kindness, humility, and generosity, Dr. Brar joined the International Rice Research Institute (IRRI) as a Plant Breeder in 1987. He later served as the Head of the Division of Plant Breeding, Genetics, and Biotechnology at IRRI (2007-2012). After retiring from IRRI in 2012, he returned to PAU as an Honorary Adjunct Professor, where he continued his passion for teaching and mentoring. Additionally, he was the Founder Secretary of the G.S. Khush Foundation.

His passing on March 11, 2020, was a profound loss to his family, friends, and the global scientific community. To honor his legacy, family members, friends, well-wishers, and the G.S. Khush Foundation established the Dr. Darshan Singh Brar Award in Agriculture in 2022. The award includes a cash prize of Rs. 3 lakh and a plaque. Dr. Darshan Singh Brar Award in Agriculture-2025 was awarded jointly to two distinguished scientists of IARI; Dr. Vijaipal Singh, Former Head, Division of Genetics, and Dr. Ashok Kumar Singh, Former Director, for the development of iconic varieties of basmati rice. Both the distinguished scientists were awarded with a plaque and a cash award of Rs. 1.5 lakh each during the Annual Award Function held on 19th March, 2025. Both of them shared insights into their research contributions and expressed gratitude to the foundation.



Dr. GS Khush, Mrs. Sukhwinder Kaur Brar, Dr. Harwant Khush and other dignitaries conferring plaque and cheque of Dr. DS Brar Award in Agriculture-2025 to Dr. Vijaipal Singh and Dr. Ashok Kumar Singh

5) Dr. Darshan Singh Brar Young Scientist Award

During the Annual Governing Body Meeting of the G.S. Khush Foundation on August 19, 2022, it was decided to establish the Dr. Darshan Singh Brar Young Scientist Award to recognize the contributions of young faculty members at PAU under the age of 45 years. This annual award honours a PAU faculty member for outstanding achievements in teaching, research, or extension. The award includes a cash prize of Rs. 50,000 and a plaque.

A selection committee, comprising the Director of Research, Director of Extension Education, and Deans of all constituent colleges at PAU, evaluated the applications and selected Dr. Gurupkar Singh, Senior Fruit Biotechnologist, School of Agricultural Biotechnology, PAU, Ludhiana, as the recipient of the Dr. Darshan Singh Brar Young Scientist Award in Agriculture for the year 2025. Dr. Gurupkar Singh was honored with the award and plaque at the Annual Awards Day function on March 19, 2025, at PAU.



Expressing his gratitude, he thanked the Foundation and shared his insights on his contributions to the field.

Dr. GS Khush & Mrs. Sukhwinder Kaur Brar conferring plaque and cheque of Dr. DS Brar Young Scientist Award in Agriculture-2025 to Dr. Gurupkar Singh

6) Award for Excellence in Communication

The Foundation also recognizes and honors scientists for their outstanding contributions to agricultural communication and social work. In 2025, Dr. Ranjit Singh Tamber, Former Additional Director Communication, PAU was awarded "Award for Excellence in Communication" for his exemplary contributions in spreading agricultural innovations among farmers and youth of Punjab. He was honoured with a plaque and a cash award of Rs. 50,000/- during the Annual Award Function. Dr. Tamber in his speech, thanked the foundation for recognizing his work.



Dr. GS Khush and other dignitaries on stage conferring Award for Excellence in Communication to Dr. Ranjit Tamber

ii) Financial Assistance for Needy Students

Over the years, the Chairman of the Foundation has received numerous requests for financial support to students in need. While the Foundation has extended assistance to several such students on a case-by-case basis, the need for a structured support system became evident. In its Annual Governing Body Meeting in year 2022, the Foundation formally decided to provide financial assistance of up to Rs. 25,000 per year to deserving students in need. To date, the Foundation has supported eighteen students through this initiative, offering financial aid upon request.

iii) Additional support

Foundation supported the workshop at PAU's Regional Research Station, Ballowal Saunkhri located in Kandi area.

A special grant (Rs 3.0 Lakh) was given to the Plant Breeding & Genetics Department to upgrade the laboratory facilities for molecular breeding research.

iv) Guest Lectures

The Foundation has organized six guest lectures in a series by eminent scientists on topics of general interest to the faculty and students of PAU and GADVASU. Seventh guest lecture was delivered by Professor Ramesh Chand, Member, NITI Aayog, on the topic "India's Agricultural Policies and Performance : Lessons for Navigating the future" during the Annual Function held on March 19, 2025.



Eighth guest lecture will be delivered by Dr. Jatinder Paul Singh Gill, Vice Chancellor, GADVASU on the Annual Function of the Foundation on March 18, 2026.

v) Nobel Prize Series India 2019

PAU along with Dr. Gurdev Singh Khush Foundation, National Agri-Food Biotechnology Institute (NABI), Mohali, in partnership with Department of Biotechnology (DBT), Govt of India and the Nobel Foundation organized a Nobel Prize Series with the theme: Teaching and Learning on September 12, 2019 at PAU. The event comprised of lectures, student round table discussion and exhibition. Nobel Laureate Professor Serge Haroche gave lecture on "How basic and applied science nurture each other". Dr. Juleen Zierath member of the Royal Swedish Academy and Nobel Assembly spoke on "The Nobel Prize in Physiology/Medicine: reflections from behind closed doors". A large number of school students, teachers, faculty, educationists, medical doctors attended the event.

vi) Symposium in the Honour and memory of Dr. Darshan Singh Brar

The Khush Foundation and Punjab Agricultural University also organized a two-day symposium on August 17-18, 2022

on the theme "Transforming the Green Revolution Hub of India: Innovations in Crop Breeding, Resource Management and Policy". Distinguished scientists from abroad and India, students from different agricultural institutes of the country attended the symposium. The symposium concurred and shared ideas in the form of expert lectures and panel discussions among agricultural stalwarts while also actively engaging the younger generation of researchers and students in the discussions. A copy of the proceeding of the symposium including summary of lectures from the stalwarts and research of the participants has been kept in the Dr. G.S. Khush Museum, Gurdev Singh Khush Institute of Genetics, Plant Breeding and Biotechnology, PAU.

vii) Dr. G.S. Khush Distinguished Professor Award

The award is presented in recognition of a distinguished teacher in College of Agriculture, PAU, in view of excellence in research, teaching or extension activities. The award was established in year 1990 from a donation of Rs 1.0 lakh by Dr G. S. Khush. Till date, thirteen scientists of PAU have been conferred with this award.

viii) Dr. G.S. Khush Distinguished Professor Chair Award

With an additional donation of Rs 3.0 lakh by Dr. G. S. Khush, Dr. G.S. Khush Distinguished Professor Chair has been established at PAU in place of Dr. G.S. Khush Distinguished Professor Award. The award is presented in recognition of a distinguished teacher in College of Agriculture and College of Horticulture & Forestry, PAU, in view of excellence in research, teaching or extension activities. Dr. Gurjit Singh Mangat, Principal Rice Breeder, PAU has been awarded with Dr. G.S. Khush Distinguished Professor Chair Award in Year 2026 for his exemplary contributions in the field of rice genetics and breeding.

ix) Annual Award Function 2026

The Annual Award Function for conferring G.S. Khush Merit Scholarships, Travel Grants, 5th Dr. D.S. Brar Award in Agriculture-2026, 4th Dr. D. S. Brar Young Scientist Award-2026 is going to be held on March 18, 2026. The function will be held at Pal Auditorium, Punjab Agricultural University, Ludhiana.



Dr. Gurdev Singh Khush with all the Awardees in the Annual Award Function of the Foundation held on March 19, 2025