

Dr. P. K. Rai
Director
ICAR-Directorate of Rapeseed-Mustard Research
Bharatpur



Born on May 05, 1968 in Kumbh village of Azamgarh district in Uttar Pradesh, Dr. P. K. Rai did his graduation from Gorakhpur University and post-graduation and Ph.D. from Banaras Hindu University. Dr. Rai joined as Director, ICAR- Directorate of Rapeseed-Mustard Research, Bharatpur on 2nd March 2020. Prior to his appointment, he worked as Director (Acting), ICAR-Directorate of Rapeseed-Mustard Research from 1st January, 2017 to 1st March, 2020. He started his professional career in 1996 as Assistant Professor (Plant

Pathology) at S.K.N. College of Agriculture (SKN University of Agriculture, Jobner). In 2005, he joined Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel University of Agriculture & Technology, Meerut as Associate Professor (Pathology & Microbiology) in the College of Biotechnology. In 2009, Dr. Rai was selected as Principal Scientist (Plant Pathology) and was placed at ICAR-Directorate of Rapeseed-Mustard Research, Bharatpur.

He worked on pigeonpea blight and wilt, wilt of cumin, Alternaria blight of *Cassia angustifolia* and *Catharanthus roseus*, chickpea *Rhizobia*, white rust, Sclerotinia rot and Alternaria blight of mustard. Developed RIL populations for Alternaria blight and drought/heat tolerance. Identified superior recombinant inbred lines for seed yield and related traits and assessed genetic variation among drought tolerant recombinant inbred lines in Indian mustard. Validated molecular markers for marker-assisted pyramiding of white rust resistance loci in Indian Mustard. Mycelial compatibility groups and variability in *Sclerotinia sclerotiorum* in Indian mustard was studied. Eco-friendly module was developed for management of major diseases of India mustard. Associated in developing two Indian mustard varieties and 7 trait specific germplasms. He has more than 70 research papers in his credit published in journals of International and National reposes.

As Director (Act.) ICAR-DRMR and PC (Act.), AICRP-RM, several initiatives were taken by him to restructure Rapeseed-Mustard coordinated project including discontinuation of non-performing centers, opening of new and strengthening of some centers, initiation of new research programs on crop improvement, crop production and crop protection. Post-harvest management of mustard and value chain was demonstrated in the states of Jharkhand, Assam, Manipur, Arunachal Pradesh and Rajasthan by establishing mini mustard oil expeller. Linkage established with many SAUs and ICAR institutes for Demonstration of Rapeseed-mustard production technologies, particularly in North eastern states and Bundelkhand region. Eight mustard seed-hubs were established in Rajasthan, Uttar Pradesh, Haryana, Madhya Pradesh, West Bengal and Assam to ensure availability of certified seed of improved varieties at local level. MoU signed to provide consultancy in world bank funded project Assam Agribusiness and Rural Transformation Project (APART) worth Rs. 883.13 lakh.

Awards and honors

Dr. Rai has received several awards from professional societies including Dr. P.R. Kumar Outstanding *Brassica* Researcher Award by SRMR (Society for rapeseed-Mustard Research), ISMPP-Fellowship, Prof. J.S. Dastur Memorial Award of Academy for Environment and Life Sciences, SPR-Fellowship of Society for Plant Research, SRMR-Fellowship award, Life time achievement award of Astha Foundation, Best Scientist Award of ICAR-DRMR, Bioved-Honorary Fellowship Award of Bioved society, SRDA-Fellowship award etc.