



# GII NEWS

The Newsletter of the Genome India International

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## *DR. KHUSH'S DONATION TO ALMA MATER*

Dr. Gurudev Singh Khush, a world renowned rice breeder and revered Genome India International's advisor, donated Rs. 3.50 crore to the Punjab Agricultural University (PAU) to repay his debt of gratitude to his alma mater which provided him with the know-how to achieve the global distinction as a rice breeder.



This amount is the prize money he received from various organizations for contributions to agriculture and increasing food production in the world. Dr Khush had worked at the International Rice Research Institute (IRRI), the Philippines, Manila for more than 35 years and this institute developed some 330 varieties of rice under his grand leadership. Dr GS Khush was honored with the prestigious awards including the Borlaug award (1977), the World Food Prize (1996), the Rank Prize (1998) and the Wolf Prize (2000) besides Padmashree by the Government of India. He had also been recognized and honored by many other Asian countries including China, Iran, Thailand and several African countries.

If you are interested in contributing your news/achievements/information/job openings /etc, please feel free to contact:

Dr. M. Nageswara Rao ([mnrbhav@yahoo.com](mailto:mnrbhav@yahoo.com))

Dr. Jaya R. Soneji ([jayasoneji@yahoo.co.in](mailto:jayasoneji@yahoo.co.in))

## CONGRATULATIONS



**Dr. Vidya Gupta**, a senior scientist from the National Chemical Laboratory (NCL), Pune, India, received the prestigious Council of Scientific and Industrial Research (CSIR) Rural Development award from the Prime Minister of India, Dr. Manmohan Singh in New Delhi. This honor has been jointly awarded to Nimbkar Agricultural Research Institute (NARI), Phaltan, India and NCL for the scientific research aimed at improving lamb production and germplasm improvement for Indian sheep industry.

NARI and NCL effort was aimed at introducing the gene *FecB* from the elite Indian breed, Garole, in to the Deccani breed of Maharashtra, India. According to NCL, Pune, the new strain of Deccani sheep (named *NARI Swarna*) carrying this candidate gene produces twin lambs higher than the Deccani. Dr. Gupta's research accomplishments were also highlighted in the GII's *Member-in-Spotlight* section (September-2005; <http://genome-india-intl.org/member/spot3.htm>).

## SCIENTIFIC ACHIEVEMENT

Scientists at the National Dairy Research Institute (NDRI), Karnal, India, have cloned the world's first buffalo through the "Handguided Cloning Technique" on February 6<sup>th</sup>, 2009. GII congratulates the team members *viz*: Dr. SK Singla, Dr. RS Manik, Dr. MS Chauhan, D. P Palta, Dr. RA Shah and Mr. A George for their jubilant success. This technique is claimed to be simpler and is an advanced modification of the "conventional cloning technique" which was used for the production of the cloned sheep "Dolly".

India has 53% of world Buffalo population and 15% of world Cattle

population. The team involved in the cloning are hopeful that the new technique would lead to a new era in animal science for developing elite breeds.

Dr. Mangala Rai, Director General, Indian Council of Agricultural Research (ICAR), New Delhi, and Dr. AK Srivastava, Director, NDRI congratulated the team.



"World's first buffalo calf cloned by scientists of National Dairy Research Institute (NDRI)" (Source: Times of India)

## *MEMBER SPOTLIGHTS OF GII*

### FEATURED IN 2009 (January-March)

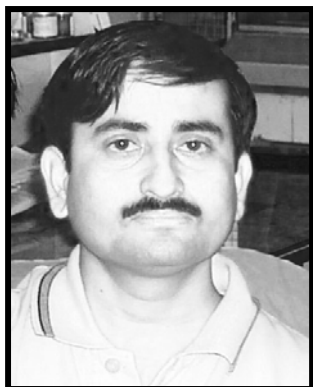
#### **Dr. Dipankar Maiti**

Dr. Maiti did his BS, MS as well as Ph.D. from the Bidhan Chandra Krishi Vishwavidyalaya, Kalyani, West Bengal, India. He started his career as a Scientist Gr. S-1 in Plant Pathology for Agricultural Research Service of the Indian Council of Agricultural Research at the Central Rainfed Upland Rice Research Station, Hazaribag, Jharkhand, India and is currently a Principal Scientist. He specializes in Mycology and Integrated Pest Management. He can be reached at [dmaiti@hotmail.com](mailto:dmaiti@hotmail.com)



#### **Dr. Ratnakar Vallabhaneni**

Mr. Vallabhaneni has done his BS from the Nagarjuna University, Andhra Pradesh, India. He has done his MS in Biotechnology from the University of the West of England, England and also in Biology from Lehman College of the City University of New York, USA. Currently, he is pursuing his PhD at the City University of New York, USA. He is combining comparative genomics, bioinformatics and plant genetic diversity to investigate regulation of pro-vitamin A carotenoid content and composition in the Poaceae. He can be reached at [vallabhaneni.ratnakar@gmail.com](mailto:vallabhaneni.ratnakar@gmail.com)



#### **Dr. Rajib Bandopadhyay**

Dr. Bandopadhyay started his career in 2005 as a Lecturer in the Department of Biotechnology, Birla Institute of Technology, Jharkhand, India, where he is currently a Senior Lecturer. He has been awarded a fellowship from the Korean Research Fund and is also a recipient of the Boyscast fellowship. His research has aimed at development of molecular markers for the wheat genome. He can be reached at [rajib\\_bandopadhyay@bitmesra.ac.in](mailto:rajib_bandopadhyay@bitmesra.ac.in)

To read more about the members-in-spotlight, kindly visit @  
<http://genome-india-intl.org/spotpage.htm>

## *GENOMICS RELATED SYMPOSIA/CONFERENCES*

1. AgriGenomics World Congress, July 2-3, 2009, London, England, UK  
Web: <http://www.selectbiosciences.com/conferences/AGWC2009/>
2. The First International Conference on Postharvest and Quality Management of Horticultural Products of Interest for Tropical Regions, July 20-23, 2009, San José, Costa Rica  
Web: <http://agro.ucr.ac.cr/postharvest/>
3. Human Genetics and Genomics, July 19-24, 2009, Biddeford, Maine, USA  
Web: <http://www.grc.org/programs.aspx?year=2009&program=humangen>
4. Molecular Markers in Horticulture Symposium, July 29-August 1, 2009, Corvallis, Oregon, USA  
Web: <http://oregonstate.edu/conferences/molecularmarkers2009/>
5. Microarray World Congress, August 6-7, 2009, South San Francisco, California, USA  
Web: <http://www.selectbiosciences.com/conferences/MWC2009/>
6. The 4<sup>th</sup> Asian Epigenomics Meeting, August 24-25, 2009, Biopolis, Singapore  
Web: <http://www.gis.a-star.edu.sg/epigenomics09/index.php>



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