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Specialization: Vegetable and Spice Pathology

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Ongoing Research Projects

- All India Coordinated Research Project on Spices funded by ICAR working as Principal Investigator from February, 2026
- Evaluation of bio-efficacy and phytotoxicity of Oxathiapiprolin 4.61% w/w + Amisulbrom 23.08% w/w SE against downy mildew of cucumber (*Pseudoperonospora cubensis*) funded by Corteva Agriscience Pvt. Ltd. (Co-PI)

Important Research Publications

- Kumar A, Gupta M, Kumar S, Singh A, Bhardwaj C, Thakur M and Thakur J. 2026. *Fusarium equiseti* -induced pod rot in pea and fruit rot in cucumber: first report of post-harvest diseases in India. *Proceedings of the Indian National Science Academy* <https://doi.org/10.1007/s43538-026-00690-5> (NAAS Rating 8.10 (IF-2.1))
- Bhandari A, Verma SC, Chandel VGS, Sharma PL, Chandel RS, Gupta M, Singh C, Chauhan N, Sharma V, Semwal A and Sharma P. 2026. Population growth parameters, predatory potential, and functional response of *Melanostoma orientale* (Diptera: Syrphidae) Against *Macrosiphum euphorbiae* (Hemiptera: Aphididae) infesting tomato. *New Zealand Journal of Crop and Horticultural Science* 54:e70169 <https://doi.org/10.1002/nzc2> ((NAAS Rating 7.6)
- Saini M, Gupta M, Sagar V, Chauhan A, Saini R and Kumar G. 2025. Molecular identification and management of *Ralstonia pseudosolanacearum* (Phylotype I) causing bacterial wilt of tomato using copper oxide nanoparticles in Himachal Pradesh, India. *Crop Protection* 191 (2025): 107192. <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.cropro.2025.107152> (NAAS Rating 8.50)
- Saini M, Sagar V, Gupta M and Sharma SK. 2025. Identification, characterization and genetic diversity of *Ralstonia pseudosolanacearum* species complex causing bacterial wilt of tomato in Himachal Pradesh, India. *Physiological and Molecular Plant Pathology* 138: 102684 <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.pmpp.2025.102684> (NAAS Rating 8.80)
- Thakur L, Thakur M, Kumar K, Gupta M and Sood S. 2025. *In vitro* selection and evaluation of colchicine-induced ginger (*Zingiber officinale* Rosc.) tetraploids against rhizome rot tolerance. *Plant Cell, Tissue and Organ Culture* 163(1):9 <https://doi.org/10.1007/s11240-025-03187-z> (NAAS Rating 8.3)

- Punia Y, Shukla A, Gupta M, Chauhan A, Gupta B, Sharma A, Devi M, Anand A and Kumar R. 2025. Isolation, characterization and evaluation of biocontrol agents against Fusarium wilt of capsicum in mid hills of Himachal Pradesh. *Plant Science Today* 13(sp1): 1-6. <https://doi.org/10.14719/pst.10889> (NAAS Rating 6.7)
- Kumar A, Gupta M, Sharma SK, Shukla A and Devi S. 2025. Occurrence of soil borne diseases of garlic in Himachal Pradesh. *Plant Science Today* 12(3) <https://doi.org/10.14719/pst.9930> (NAAS Rating-6.7)
- Kumar A, Gupta M, Sharma SK, Kumar S, Shukla A and Devi S. 2025. *In vitro* evaluation of biocontrol agents against basal rot of garlic. *Plant Science Today* 12(4) <https://doi.org/10.14719/pst.9897> (NAAS Rating 6.7)
- Kumar A, Gupta M, Sharma SK, Kumar S, Shukla A and Devi S. 2025. Evaluation of biochemical basis of chemical induced basal rot tolerance affecting garlic cultivation in Himachal Pradesh. *Plant Science Today* 12(4) <https://doi.org/10.14719/pst.9913> (NAAS Rating 6.7)
- Kumari N, Anita, Sharma SK, Gupta M, Sharma NC and Thakur N. 2025. Prevalence of collar rot of apple in Himachal Pradesh and its management through antagonistic microorganisms. *Plant Science Today* 13(sp1): 01-12. <https://doi.org/10.14719/pst.10524> (NAAS Rating 6.7)
- Kritika, Gupta M, Mehta DK, Chauhan A, Kumari N, and Kumari R. 2025. Impact of bioinoculants and chemical fertilizers on soil properties of garlic (*Allium sativum*) cv. Solan Selection. *Agriculture Association of Textile Chemical and Critical Reviews Journal* (2025) 329-333. <https://doi.org/10.21276/AATCCReview.2025.13.04.329> (NAAS Rating 6.0)
- Sharma A, Shukla A and Gupta M. 2023. Effect of bioagents on cucumber seed mycoflora, seed germination, and seedling vigour. *Scientific Reports* 13:6052 <https://doi.org/10.1038/s41598-023-30253-3> (NAAS Rating 11.00)
- Shukla A, Sharma D, Sharma M, Tarafdar A and Gupta M. 2022. First report of *Fusarium equiseti* causing crown and root rot of cucumber in India. *Journal of Plant Pathology* <https://doi.org/10.1007/s42161-022-01075-5>. (NAAS Rating 7.73)
- Leharwan M, Gupta M, Chauhan A, Shukla A and Kumar U. 2021. Cultural, morphological, molecular and pathological characterization of *Protomyces macrospores* Unger causing stem gall of coriander. *Indian Journal of Agricultural Sciences* 91 (11): 1561-65. (NAAS Rating 6.21)
- Gupta M, Bharat NK, Chauhan A and Vikram A. 2013. First report of bacterial leaf spot of coriander caused by *Pseudomonas syringae* pv. *coriandricola* in India. *Plant Disease* 97(3):418. (NAAS Rating 7.7)
- Shanmugam, V., Dohroo, NP, Gupta, M., Gangta, V. and Dohroo, A. 2010. First report of *Pythium splendens* on ginger. *Journal of Plant Pathology* 2010. **92(4)**: S4109. (NAAS Rating 7.4)

Awards & Recognitions

- Best Research Paper Award in National Symposium on “Synergies for sustainability: fostering academia-industry collaboration in plant health management” w.e.f. February 27-28, 2026 entitled, “Efficiency of new generation fungicides against emerging *Alternaria* sp. causing purple blotch of garlic”
- Exposure visit to KOB, Ravensburg, Germany w.e.f. 18.12.2023 to 23.12.2023
- Best poster award in 7th International Conference on “Phytopathology in achieving UN sustainable Development Goals” of Indian Phytopathological Society, New Delhi, held at IARI, New Delhi (January 16-20, 2020)
- Councillor (North Zone) of Indian Society of Plant Pathologists, Ludhiana for two years (2018-2020)
- Received ‘Scroll of Honour’ from Indian Phytopathological Society, New Delhi in 2019 for commendable work as Zonal Councillor of Northern Zone of the society in 2018-19
- Third Best poster award in Annual Meeting of the Indian Society of Plant Pathologists, Ludhiana and National Symposium on “Plant Pathology in the Challenging Global Scenario” held at NBPGR, New Delhi (February 27-28, 2009)
- Travel Grant by Mahyco Foundation for young researchers for attending 6th International workshop on Plant Growth Promoting Rhizobacteria (5-10 October, 2003) held at IISR, Calicut, India.
- University Gold Medal and Certificate of Honour in PhD
- Gold medal from “Himotkarsh”- an academy for Literature, Culture and Public Welfare, Una, Himachal Pradesh for excellence in academics as Topper in Ph.D. in College of Horticulture, Nauni
- University Merit Scholarship in MSc
- College Certificate of Merit in BSc