**PROF. PREM LAL GAUTAM**

Chairman, Management Committee, Shivshakti School Nihari (Bilaspur, HP)



Born on 12th December 1947 in Village Kandayana- Berthin District Bilaspur (HP), Dr. Gautam is a distinguished agricultural scientist. He earned his B.Sc. (Agriculture) degree in 1968 from Agricultural College, Solan (HP), followed by and M.Sc. (1970) and Ph.D. (1974) in Genetics from the Indian Agricultural Research Institute (IARI), New Delhi.

**Professional Career**

Dr. Gautam began his academic career as Assistant Professor of Plant Breeding at GB Pant University Pantnagar (UP, now in Uttrakhand) on 16 September 1974. Over the years, he held several prestigious academic and administrative positions in states of, including:

* Associate Professor of Plant Breeding, Associate Director, Crop Research Centre and Joint Director / Associate Dean, Hill Campus, Ranichauri, GB Pant University
* Dean, College of Forestry, YS Parmar University of Horticulture & Forestry, Solan (HP)
* Vice Chancellor (*two terms*), GB Pant University of Agriculture and Technology, Pantnagar, Uttarakhand
* Managing Director, Uttarakhand Seeds & Terai Development Corporation, Pantnagar
* Chairman, Advisory Committee, Patanjali University, Hardwar
* Vice Chancellor, Career Point University, Hamirpur (HP)

He served at the national level as:

* Chairperson, Protection of Plant Varieties & Farmers’ Rights Authority, New Delhi (*in the rank of Secretary to the Government of India*)
* Chairman, National Biodiversity Authority, Chennai (*in the rank of Secretary to the Government of India*)
* Deputy Director General (Crop Science), Indian Council of Agricultural Research (ICAR)
* Director, ICAR–National Bureau of Plant Genetic Resources (NBPGR)
* National Director, ICAR–NATP Project

Presently, he is the Chancellor of Dr. Rajendra Prasad Central Agricultural University Pusa, Samastipur (Bihar, Pro-Chancellor (*honorary*) of Career Point University, Hamirpur (HP), Chairman Management Committee, Shivshakti School Nihari (Bilaspur, HP), and Chief Patron of the Society for Community Mobilization for Sustainable Development.

**Scientific and Policy Contributions**

Dr. Gautam is a renowned geneticist and plant breeder. He has contributed to the development of 12 improved crop varieties (wheat, foxtail millet, soybean, ricebean, amaranth, and buckwheat), and the registration of two rice germplasm accessions. He played a pivotal role in redefining Basmati rice to safeguard national interests and adoption of modern breeding tools.

He was instrumental in launching the first postgraduate program in Plant Genetic Resources in India at NBPGR, in partnership with IARI. He initiated the registration of plant germplasm in India and was closely involved in the drafting and implementation of the Biological Diversity Act and the Protection of Plant Varieties & Farmers’ Rights Act.

He led important missions under ICAR-NATP project on agro-biodiversity and food & nutritional security and significantly contributed to Plant Genetic Resource conservation and management.

**International exposure**

Dr. Gautam has been a key figure in international negotiations and treaty work:

* Member of Indian delegations to FAO’s International Treaty on Plant Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture (ITPGRFA) and the UN Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD)
* A strong advocate for the inclusion of Farmers’ Rights in the ITPGRFA and right of choice of moratorium on the terminator gene under the Cartagena Biosafety Protocol
* Co-Chair of 5th Session of FAO-ITPGRFA
* Member Executive Board (Asia Region), Global Crop Diversity Trust, Germany
* Expert Consultant for FAO mission on ITPGRFA to Magnolia and the USAID-CISA/STRASA project of the International Rice Research Institute
* Indian-side Member of the Indo-US Knowledge Initiative on Agriculture

**National Committee Assignments**

Dr. Gautam has held leadership roles in several national-level committees:

* Chair/member: ICAR, CSIR, DBT, DST, ASRB, UPSC, FICCI, ICFRE, FSSAI, and others
* Chaired committees for restructuring ICAR-AICRPs, Indian Council of Forestry Research & Education, State Seed Corporations, and for strengthening IARI as a global university
* Chaired Research Advisory Committees and QRTs of several ICAR institutes
* Member, Board of Management of seven universities
* Member, External Advisory Panel, World Bank-funded ICAR-Agricultural Higher Education Project
* Chaired the review committee for IARI educational hubs
* Current Member, University Council of SKUAST, Jammu, and ICAR Committee for evolving multidisciplinary deemed universities

**Awards and Recognitions**

Over an academic career spanning nearly 50 years, Dr. Gautam has earned national and international acclaim. His leadership helped NBPGR and GBPUA&T, Pantnagar win ICAR’s Best Institution Awards.

**Professional Fellowships**

* Indian Society of Genetics & Plant Breeding (Indian Society of Genetics and Plant Breeding), 1979
* National Academy of Agricultural Sciences (NAAS),2001
* National Academy of Biological Sciences, 2001
* Indian Society of Plant Genetic Resources (ISPGR), 2007
* International Society for Noni Science, 2017
* Honorary Fellow, Indian Academy of Horticultural Sciences, 2022
* Honorary Fellow, Plant Genetic Resources (ISPGR), 2023
* Former President, ISGPB and ISPGR,2000-02
* Former Vice President, NAAS (2013-15) and Vice Chair Trust for Advancement of Agricultural Sciences (2012-2017)

**Awards:**

* Panjab University, Chandigarh University Medal (1968),
* Lal Bahadur Shastri Memorial Gold Medal (1968), Agricultural College, Solan (now YSPU&F Nauni, Solan (HP)
* Dr. Harbhajan Singh Memorial Award (2001–02), Indian Society of Plant Genetic Resources, New Delhi
* Uttaranchal Rattan (2004) &The Great Son of the Soil (2007), All India Conference of Intellectuals, Meerut
* Jewel of India Award (2006), Indian Solidarity Council, New Delhi
* Eminent Citizen of India Award (2006), International Institute of Education & Management, New Delhi
* Rashtryiya Samman Purskar (2006), Indian Society for Industry and Intellectual Development, New Delhi
* Indira Gandhi Priyadarshini Award (2010), All India National Unity Conference, New Delhi
* Life Time Achievement Awards (2007) : Society for Mobilization for Sustainable Development New Delhi
* Agriculture Leadership Award for nationally recognized role in Agriculture Development 2011 (Agriculture Today New Delhi)
* Indira Gandhi Sadbhavana Award (2015, International Business Council, New Delhi
* Amit Krishi Rishi Award (2016), Lt. Amit Singh Memorial Foundation, New Delhi
* Certificate of Recognition (2017), for wheat variety UP 262, Indian Society of Plant Genetic & Plant Breeding, New Delhi
* Dr. S. Radhakrishnan Education Excellence Award (2018), Indian Institute of Oriental Heritage,Kolkatta
* Best Indian Golden Personalities Award (2025), Friendship Forum, New Delhi

**Publications:**

His publications cover the areas of Genetics & Plant Breeding, Plant Genetic Resources, Biodiversity and Agriculture.

**Honorary Degrees:**

* Doctor of Science (honoris causa), ND University of Agriculture and Technology, Faizabad, UP (2018)
* Doctor of Science (honoris causa), Sher-e-Kashmir University of Agriculture & Technology, Jammu (2022)