

Profile of Dr. Mahendar Singh Bhinda

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I am currently working as a scientist in the discipline of Plant Breeding & Genetics at ICAR-Vivekananda Parvatiya Krishi Anusandhan Sansthan, Almora (Uttarakhand) since April 2020. I am working on genetic improvement of Small Millets and Potential Crops scheme under Crop Improvement Division of the Institute.

I have received my M. Sc. (Plant Breeding & Genetics) in 2015 from GBPUA&T, Pantnagar and Ph.D. in 2020 from S.K Rajasthan Agriculture University, Bikaner.

Mainly involved in germplasm evaluation and characterization, varietal development and multiplication of the small millets (**finger millet & barnyard millet**) and potential crops (**grain amaranth, buckwheat and quinoa**).

I was involved in the development of five finger millet varieties. Among them three (**VL Mandua 400/CFMV 5, VL Mandua 408/CFMV 6 & VL Mandua 410/CFMV 8**) were released through CVRC and two (**VL Mandua 402** and **VL Mandua 409**) were released through SVRC for rainfed organic ecology of Uttarakhand hills. One barnyard millet variety **VL Madira 254** was released through SVRC for Uttarakhand hills. Also, one grain amaranth Variety **VL Chua 140** was released for North Western Hill Zone (HP & UK) through CVRC. Additionally, evaluated and multiplied more than 2000 germplasm accessions of finger millet, barnyard millet, rice bean grain amaranth, buckwheat and quinoa crops during 2020 to 2025 at ICAR-VPKAS Almora. Also, involved in Farmers participatory seed production programme of small millet and potential crops.

Published more than 10 research papers in the reputed national and international journals. Apart from this, I authored several extension leaflets (05) popular articles (12) and Book chapters (10) based on diversified works, especially on hill crops.

Additionally, involved in the different extension activities i.e. putting up stall exhibition in various farmer's fairs, conducting FLDs and delivering radio talks particularly on small millets and potential crops for popularization among the farming community of the NWH.