

IAEA Award for BARC research in mutation breeding of crops

The Mutation Breeding Team of Nuclear Agriculture and Biotechnology Division of Bhabha Atomic Research Centre (BARC) has been awarded *Outstanding Achievement Award* by Vienna-headquartered International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA). The award recognises radiation based mutation research for genetic improvement of crops resulting in the release and notification of 11 varieties – Rice (04), one each in Linseed, Mustard, Cowpea, Urdbean, Pigeonpea, Groundnut and Mungbean – in the last decade.

A total of 49 BARC varieties have been released for commercial cultivation across India so far. These varieties, in addition to improving crop productivity in turn enhancing farm incomes, also uplifted socio-economic status of thousands of farmers, thus contributing positively to the National Food Security Mission.

The award will be delivered during the Side event at the 65th regular session of the IAEA General Conference during 20-24 September 2021.



Young Scientist Award



P. Dhanasekar

Shri P. Dhanasekar of Nuclear Agriculture and Biotechnology Division, BARC has been conferred the *Young Scientist Award* by the IAEA in recognition of his dedicated mutation breeding research leading to the release and notification of 04 high yielding, disease resistant mutant varieties - 03 in pigeonpea and 01 in cowpea – by Government of India for commercial cultivation. The pigeonpea varieties annually garner about 11% of the national breeder seed indent and are widely cultivated by the farmers in central India, which is the hub of pigeonpea cultivation. Further, cowpea mutant variety has the distinction of being India's first summer variety which will augment summer pulse production. Shri Dhanasekar will receive the award during 20-24 September 2021.