

In Memoriam: Dr. Vandana Tyagi

With deep sorrow the Kirkhouse Trust (KT) announces the passing of Dr. Vandana Tyagi, STOL PI for NBPGR, India on 22nd January 2025. Our heartfelt condolences and deepest sympathy are with her family during these challenging times.

The ICAR-National Bureau of Plant Genetic Resources (NBPGR) and the KT-Stress Tolerant Orphan Legume (STOL) family are deeply saddened by the untimely passing of our beloved colleague, Dr. Vandana Tyagi, Principal Scientist, on January 22nd 2025, at the age of 56.

Dr. Tyagi joined NBPGR in 1997, where she made invaluable contributions to the field of plant genetic resources. A distinguished scientist, she was a Fulbright Fellow and served as a Visiting Fellow at Cornell University, Ithaca, and the State University of New York. Her dedication to scientific excellence earned her numerous accolades, including the "Scientist of the Year" award in 2011 from the Society of Scientific and Applied Research Centre, the Fulbright Alumni Engagement Innovation Fund Project award in 2013, and the prestigious ISPGR fellowship.

For 28 years, Dr. Tyagi played a pivotal role in the advancement of germplasm exchange and plant genetic resources (PGR) policy. As Principal Investigator for the Indian component of the KT-STOL project, she was instrumental in facilitating the exchange of germplasm among STOL partners, furthering global collaboration and research in this critical field.

Her legacy is not only marked by her scientific contributions but also by her warm, genuine, and pleasant demeanour. Dr. Tyagi's kindness and professionalism touched the lives of all who worked with her, and her absence leaves a profound void.