

Dr Keshav Raj Kranthi is currently the Director of the Central Institute for Cotton Research (CICR) Nagpur. A gold medalist in Ph.D from the Indian Agricultural Research Institute, New Delhi, he has patents granted in South Africa, Mexico, China and Uzbekistan. Dr Kranthi joined the Indian Council of Agricultural Research (ICAR) in 1991 and worked on insect pest management in cotton at CICR from 1992. He developed several diagnostic kits to detect Biotech cotton and insecticide resistant insects. The Bt detection kits were commercialized and are being used by all the seed testing agencies, farmers and the seed industry and have directly contributed to the reduction in spurious Bt-cotton seed in India. He published 35 papers in peer reviewed journals. He presented invited papers in 15 countries. Dr Kranthi is on the editorial board of National and International Journals. He was elected as the fellow of the prestigious National Academy of Agricultural Sciences (NAAS), India in 2009. Dr Kranthi received four National Awards in India and was recognized as the 'International Cotton Researcher of the Year Award 2009' by the International Cotton Advisory Committee (ICAC), Washington.

Over the past few years Dr Kranthi has been working on novel technologies to achieve a break-through in cotton productivity using short duration compact cotton varieties in high density planting systems in rain-fed regions with low production cost. He specializes in insect biochemistry, molecular biology, genetics and stochastic modeling of bollworm resistance to insecticides and biotech cotton. Several of the insect resistance management (IRM) strategies developed by his group have been approved by the Government of India. The IRM strategies are being successfully used by more than 50,000 cotton cultivators across India over 10 years for effective pest control through 40-60% less pesticides.