

Dr Raj Saini

Dr Raj is an entrepreneur, horticulturalist and educator based in Auckland New Zealand. He is Director of Franklin Institute of Agri-Technology and Rupex Growtech Ltd, a production plant nursery in the food-bowl of the Auckland region.

Dr Saini has a PhD in Crop Sciences from the Punjab Agricultural University in India, and his research career has included attainments/ positions such as:

- Research Fellow (Crop Genetics), Punjab Agric University, India 1973-76
- All India Agricultural Research Service Examination (1976)
- Scientist (Food crops) at Indian Council of Agric. Research, New Delhi, 1976-85.
- Research Farm Management program (1991), International Institute of Tropical Agriculture, Nigeria
- Project/Farm Manager: commercial agriculture and agro-exports, Nigeran 1985-1995
- Director/CEO Rupex Growtech Ltd producing and supplying vegetable and native seedling to commercial growers on wholesale basis, New Zealand: 1995- to date www.rupex.co.nz
- Director/CEO of Franklin Institute of Agri-technology offering skill-based teaching/training in Horticulture production leading to Certificate L 4 and Diploma L5. 2016- to date www.fiat.ac.nz



MEMBERSHIPS: NZ Plant Producers Inc. NZ Institute of Agricultural & Horticultural Sciences, International Plant Propagation Society, Royal Society of New Zealand, NZ-India business Association

His business career spans more than forty-five years working in India, Nigeria and New Zealand which includes Agri-business management, R&D planning, technology generation/transfer, crop & nursery production, staff training, and marketing. His interests are in

- Agric/crops R & D, planning & coordination, Project formulation & implementation,
- Adaptive research to evaluate & identify new cultivars (varieties/hybrids), develop location-specific growing technology suitable to local cropping and market needs.
- Agro-horticultural projects: setting up, restructuring & management of crop and nursery production/export-oriented projects on commercially viable basis
- Horticulture training centres: Set- up, manage quality, skills, and work integrations.

- Collaborative projects: Vertical farming, technology transfer, innovative projects

NZ EDUCATION SECTOR RELEVANCE:

Rajinder Saini is well qualified professionally and has considerable experience in horticulture operations. He understands what works on the ground and why, what is required at operational level and views the whole process of teaching and training from that perspective. In specific, it will be pertinent to mention followings:

TEACHING QUALS:

- Tertiary Teaching: Design and delivery L5: 15 C: MIT 2014
- US 4098: Use standards to assess learners performance: Sep 2021

PRIMARY ITO

- Trainer and assessor for horticulture Level 4 and Level 4 Advanced with Primary ITO from 2014-2018)
- Participated in Auckland Peer moderations clusters regularly organized by Primary ITO from 2014- 2018
- Hosted two Primary ITO site moderation visits (Sep 2016 Ron Taipa, Nov 2017 Alastair Gordon)
- Annual Postal moderation by Primary ITO: 2016-20178

All the Primary ITO and cluster moderation have been positive.

AGRI-TECHNOLOGY TRAININGS/WORKSHOPS:

- Plug and cutting conference 28-Sep- 1 Oct 2008, Orlando, Florida, USA
- US 20572: Bud and Graft young plants: 10 C: June 2014
- US 21564: Prepare to apply and apply agrichemicals 5 C : March 2017
- US 21563: DKO HSNO Act and NZS 8049:2004 for use of Agrichemicals 5C: March 2017
- Training in Best management practices for irrigation water, root substrate and fertilizing, by IPPS and NZPPI, (delivered by Paul Fisher of Univ of Florida) 10Aug 21

RoVE/CoVE:

Participating regularly in Zoom meetings and Email feedbacks in RoVE and CoVE process and FIAT is registered as a participant.

FIAT (2016-To date)

Delivered. Assessed and Moderated different US based programmes and Module based programs since 2016 National certificate in Horticulture Production L 4 and 4 Advance, NZ Certificate L 4 and NZ Diploma L 5.

PUBLICATIONS
DR. RAJ S. SAINI

**VEGETABLE SEEDS, TRANSPLANTS, GREENHOUSE MANAGEMENT AND
TECNOLOGY TRANSFER** **NEW ZEALAND: 1995 TO DATE**

- Greenhouse disease Management
The Grower (Wellllington) Nov 2010
- Integrated pest management for greenhouse production.
African Farming (London) Sep/Oct 2010
- Have competitive advantage through new varieties
The Grower (Wellington,NZ) August 08*
- Watermelon production in New Zealand
The Grower (Wellington,NZ) September 06
- Stay on top of the crops: use new varieties
The Grower (Wellington, NZ) August 06*
- A practical guide to greenhouse disease management.
The Grower (Wellington, NZ) October 05
- Role of resistant varieties in Integrated Pest Management.
The Grower (Wellington NZ) August 05*
- Identify your own varieties: a field guide to the growers.
The Grower (Wellington NZ) August 04*
- Know your hybrids: Advantages worth the cost.
The Grower (Wellington NZ) August 03*
- Varietal diversity to combat problems of monoculture.
The Grower (Wellington NZ): August 02*
- Breeding new varieties of Vegetable brassicas.
The Grower (Wellington NZ): August 01*
- Your guide to new varieties of Vegetable crops.
The Grower (Wellington NZ): August 00*
- Greenhouse management: a beginner's guide
The Commercial Grower (Wellington NZ) March 00
- Cabbage varieties for year around production in Auckland region.
The Commercial Grower (Wellington NZ) March' 99
- Greenhouse management for disease/insect pest control.
African Farming (London) Sep/Oct.'98
- Chemical control of greenhouse diseases & insect pests.
African Farming (London) Jan/Feb'99
- Cauliflower Varieties for year around production in Auckland region.
Commercial Grower (Wellington NZ) Sept.' 98
- The importance of new varieties/hybrids
Commercial Grower (Wellington NZ) July'98

- A plug for cells. Vege plug seedlings: sensitivities and precautions.
Commercial Grower (Wellington NZ) Feb.'98
- Plug Transplant Technology for quality vegetable production.
African Farming (London) May-Jun.'97:33-34

*I have been assisting 'The Grower' magazine to bring out special issues on new varieties of vegetable crops every August since 2000. 'The Grower' published from Wellington, is an official publication of the 'Vegetable & Potato Growers Federation' of New Zealand'.
www.thegrower.co.nz

COMMERCIAL CROP PRODUCTION AND AGRO-BASED EXPORTS, NIGERIA: 1985-1995

- . Making mechanization work: A sub Saharan Experience
African Farming (London) Mar-Apr.'98:41-42
- Cashing in on cashew: Production, processing and exports.
African Farming (London) May-Jun.'94: 25-26
- Cashew: a forex spinner for West African countries.
Business Magazine of Nigeria (Lagos) Sept.'94:34-35
- Expanding Agro-Exports in West Africa.
Part I: General aspects. African Farming (London) Sept-Oct,' 93: 39-40
Part II: Specific area of deve. African Farming (London) Nov-Dec.'93: 25-26
- Export potential in Cashew nut industry.
The Nigerian Investor (Lagos) Jan-Apr.' 93: 10-13
- Wipe out weeds: Weed management in Savanna areas.
Part 1: general management: African Farming (London) July-Aug.'92: 31-34
Part II:Chemical weed control:African Farming (London) Sept-Oct.'92: 49-50
- Finding a way through the maize: a techno-commercial viability of mechanized crop production. African Farming (London) Sept-Oct.'91: 17-18
- Experience of mechanized soybean production in middle belt of Nigeria.
8th Conference, Nigerian Soybean Association, I.I.T.A. Ibadan, Feb 6-8, 1989
- Soil conservation in large scale farming. Soil Science Society of Nigeria,
Federal University of Technology, Minna, Nov 27-30, 1988
'African Farming' is published bimonthly by Alain Charles Publishing Ltd. London for the whole African region. (www.alaincharles.com)

NATIONAL 'R & D' PLANNING, IMPLEMENTATION ,MONITORING AND TECHNOLOGY TRANSFER. INDIA:1976-1985

- **Virk, D.S., G. Singh, G. Harinarayana and R.S. Saini (1985)**
Stability analysis for comparing pearl millet hybrids in India,
Sabrao Journal(Malyasia) 17 (2) 129-133
- **Lal, S. and R.S.Saini(1985)**
New Technology for maize production, Indian Farming (N.Delhi) Jul.'85: 5-8
<http://agris.fao.org/agris-search/search.do?recordID=IN8600419>
- **Saini, R.S and S. Lal (1984)**
Varietal improvement in food crops, Indian Farming(New Delhi) Nov. '84: 3-5
- **Saini, R.S , R.k Mehta and S. Lal (1984)**

Research on upland rice, Indian Farming (New Delhi) Aug. '84: 4-8

- **Jeswani, L.M and R.S Saini (1983)**
IR-36 a new variety of rice, Indian Farming (New Delhi) Aug. '84: 3-4
- **Jeswani, L.M and R.S Saini (1983)**
Highlights of Barley research in India, Indian Farming (New Delhi) Oct.'83: 13-16

Jeswani, L.M and R.S Saini (1982)

Overview of pulse production in India; Pulses: constraints and opportunities.
Oxford IBH Publication (New Delhi) 289-293

- **Saini, R.S and R.k Mehta (1982)**
Advances in Research on Millets, Indian Farming (New Delhi), Mar. '82: 4 pages
- **Saini, R.S (1981)**
Towards higher rice productions, Indian Farming (New Delhi), Sept. '81 3 pages
- **Jeswani, L.M and R.S Saini (1981)**
Pulses; striving for adequacy, Pulses Newsletter (New Delhi) 2: 3 pages
- **Jeswani, L.M and R.S Saini (1981)**
Summer moong (Greengram) technology, Indian Farming (New Delhi), Aug. '81
- **Jeswani, L.M. and R.S. Saini (1981)**
Highlights of Research on Pulses, Indian Farming (New Delhi), August '81: P7
- **Saini, R.S. (1978)**
Manures and Fertilizers: a book review, Indian Farming (New Delhi), Dec. '78

'Indian Farming' is an official publication of Indian Council of Agricultural Research, a national body responsible of agricultural research planning, implementation and technology transfer in the country. (www.icar.org.in)

BASIC RESEARCH: GENETIC AND PLANT BREEDING,

INDIA (1973-76)

- **Minocha J.L, J.S. Sidhu and R S. Saini (1983)**
Mapping of a Pearl Millet chromosome through chromosomal interchanges.
International Congress of Genetics, held in India. Dec. '83
- **Minocha J.L, D.S. Brar, R.S Saini, D.S. multani and J.S. Sidhu (1982)**
A translocation tester set in Pearl millet, Theor. Appl. Genet. (Berlin) 62:31-33
<http://www.springerlink.com/content/n383533358x6258v/>
- **Saini, R. S. and J.L. Minocha (1981)**
A compensating trisomic in Pearl Millet. The Journal of Heredity (Oxford, U.K)
<http://jhered.oxfordjournals.org/cgi/content/abstract/72/5/354> 72: 354-355
- **Minocha, J.L, D.S Brar and R.S Saini (1980)**
Chromosomal Interchanges in Pearl Millet
Trends in Genetical Research in Pennisetums, P.A.U, Ludhiana, India
- **Minocha J.L, R. S. Saini and D.S Brar (1979)**
Aneuploids from chromosomal interchanges in Pearl Millet
Canadian J. Genet. Cytology XXI (4) 571

These publications were based on the research work done at Punjab Agricultural University, Ludhiana, India (www.pau.edu)

WORK BASED PRESS COVERAGE

- Breeding trends in Brassicas: Brassicas today web site, 2009
http://www.brassicastoday.com/en/breeding-trends-in-vegetable-brassicas--newsc-240.aspx
- Rupex Growtech commits itself to the Vege-industry. The Grower Oct 2007
- Cell Tech sells its vegetable transplant division to Rupex. The Grower 2006
- A specialist Plug transplant nursery:Rupex Growtech Ltd. India News link(NZ)Feb00
- Melagro Exports Ltd. A company profile. African Farming (London) May-Jun,94
- Soil/water conservation/Out growers' scheme. African Farming:Sep-Oct,1989
- The real farmers' farm. The Herald (Nigeria) Jan 30,1989
- Nigerian farming project goes for growth. African Farming (London):Jan-Feb'89
- Farm boss(R.S.Saini) praises Kwara state Govt. The Herald(Nigeria)Dec30,98
- Federal Govt. Agric policy lauded (R.S.Saini): The Herald (Nigeria) Dec2,1988
- Research on upland rice. United News of India: Agric Service : IX (39) 887-891
- Highlights of research on pulses in India (L.M.Jeswani & R.S.Saini)
State Bank of Mysore Farm News (Banglore, India) VI (8) 13-20
- Increasing pulses production in India (L.M.Jeswani & R.S.Saini)
United News Of India: Agric. Service(Delhi) :VIII (9) 173-76
- Pulses: constraints and opportunities in India. (L.M.Jeswani & R.S.Saini)
The Economic Times (Delhi) Oct9,1982

GEOGRAPHICAL ANALYSIS OF THE PUBLICATIONS

<u>Agro-climate</u>	<u>Target region</u>	<u>Subject matter</u>	<u>Number</u>
General	Basic Research	Crop genetics & breeding.....	5
Tropical /Sub Trop.	India	National R&D planning, research Management, technology transfer	13
Tropical	Africa (Sub-Sahara)	Mechanized/commercial farming ... Integrated weed management..... Agro based export development.....	4 1 4
Temperate	New Zealand	Vegetable varieties/plug technology Greenhouse/Disease Management	20
TOTAL PUBLICATIONS:			47

