

The Crawford Fund

Derek Tribe Award 2015

Citation

Dr. R.K. Malik is a Senior Agronomist with the International Maize and Wheat Improvement Centre's (CIMMYT) Sustainable Intensification Program based in Bihar, India. He receives the 2015 Derek Tribe award for his outstanding contributions to making a food secure world by improving and sustaining the productivity of the rice-wheat system of the northwestern and eastern Indo-Gangetic Plains, and for positively impacting the livelihoods of millions of farmers in India.

His 30+ years of research and development experience has improved the productivity and sustainability of rice-wheat cropping systems, as well as the livelihoods of millions of smallholder farmers, in the Indo-Gangetic Plains. Dr. Malik's pioneering research on herbicide resistance in *Phalaris minor*—a major weed of wheat—and the development of a management solution for resistant *P. minor* resulted in huge gains in wheat productivity in Haryana and Punjab between 1992 and 2000. His collaborative work with national and international partners and farmer participatory approaches led to achievements in the dissemination and adoption of climate-resilient technologies such as zero-tillage, early wheat sowing, laser land leveling and direct-seeded rice, as well as policy changes at the government level.

As the India country coordinator for the Cereal Systems Initiative for South Asia (CSISA), Dr. Malik's efforts continue to raise productivity and farmers' incomes in the eastern India states of Bihar and Uttar Pradesh, areas where rural poverty and food insecurity are pervasive. The creative approaches deployed by CSISA are science-led but market focused, thereby increasing affordable access to capital-intensive machinery through service provision models that simultaneously help build new jobs in rural India. His continuing commitment in South Asia to work with smallholders for fostering food security in the face of progressive climate change and contemporary climate variability make him a worthy recipient of the 2015 Crawford Fund Derek Tribe Award.