Curriculum Vitae

Dr. Rita Sharma

Assistant Professor
School of Computational & Integrative Sciences
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Research Interests:

1. Harnessing plant biotechnology for crop improvement
2. Feedstock improvement for biofuels
3. Comparative Genomics and Molecular Evolution
4. Development of new resources, tools and technologies for plant research

Field of Specialization:

Plant Biotechnology, Omics technologies (genomics, transcriptomics, metabolomics and phylogenomics), Functional genomics, Transgenics, Computational Biology and Genome engineering/editing, Indian Patent Law and its relevance for scientists.

Educational Background:

2003- 2009 **Ph.D. in Plant Molecular Biology**
Department of Plant Molecular Biology, University of Delhi South Campus, New Delhi, India
Thesis: Transcriptome profiling during panicle development in *indica* rice and functional characterization of candidate genes and promoters in transgenic rice and *Arabidopsis*.

2001-2003 **M.Sc. Botany (Gold Medallist)**
Guru Nanak Dev University, Amritsar

Professional Experience:

Feb 2015- Till date **Assistant Professor**, School of Computational & Integrative Sciences, Jawaharlal Nehru University, New Delhi, India

Feb 2018- Feb 2019	***Indo-US GETin* Fellow** (IUSSTF-DBT) at Joint BioEnergy Institute, Lawrence Berkeley National Laboratory and UC Berkeley, Berkeley, California, USA
March 2014- Jan 2018	**Ramalingaswami Fellow**, Jawaharlal Nehru University, New Delhi, India
May 2009- Feb 2014	**Postdoctoral Researcher** at Department of Plant Pathology and the Genome Centre, University of California, Davis, California, USA

Awards and Honours:

My biggest achievements that I am proud of are:

- My first PhD student, Dr. Siddhartha Kundu has been appointed as an Assistant Professor at AIIMS, New Delhi.
- My first postdoctoral researcher, Dr. Namrata Dhaka has been appointed as an Assistant Professor at Central University of Haryana.

Other personal achievements are as follows:

- ✓ Genome Engineering/Editing Technology (***GETin***) Fellowship through IUSSTF and DBT to work at Lawrence Berkeley National Laboratory and UC Berkeley (Feb 2018-Feb 2019).
- ✓ **Ramalingaswami** Re-entry fellowship 2014-2019, by the Department of Biotechnology, India.
- ✓ **Review Editor**, Frontiers in Plant Sciences.
- ✓ Founding Member, Asia Pacific Bioinformatics Interaction and Networking Society.
- ✓ Lifetime Member, Indian Society for Plant Physiology.
- ✓ Member, International Society for Computational Biology.
- ✓ Certificate of appreciation for witnessing Republic Day Parade, 2005 **as guest of Honourable Prime Minister of India** in recognition of academic performance in post-graduation.
- ✓ National Eligibility Test (CSIR-NET) qualified in 2003 among top 20%.

Conferences, Trainings and Outreach Activities:

- ✓ **Invited Lecture** on "Opportunities and teething troubles with CRISPR/cas9 toolkit for engineering plant genomes" during the National Conference on CRISPR-Cas as an Emerging Tool for Genome Editing on Feb 22, 2020 at Department of Biotechnology, IMS Engineering College, Ghaziabad.
- ✓ **Invited Lecture** on "Omics-guided New Age Domestication of Grasses for Biofuels" during the International Symposium of Bioinformatics, 2019 (InSyB2019) from Dec 21-22, 2019 at Hans Raj Mahila Maha Vidyalaya, Jalandhar, Punjab, India.

- ✓ Organized a workshop on Scientific Manuscript Writing and Reference Management at Division of Plant Physiology, Indian Agricultural Research Institute, Pusa, New Delhi in October 2019.
- ✓ **Invited Lecture** on "Big Impact of Small RNAs on Crop Improvement" during ICAR sponsored winter school program on Nov 1st, 2019 at Division of Vegetable Science at Indian Agricultural Research Institute, New Delhi, India.
- ✓ **Invited Lecture** on "Invited Lecture on "Grass Feedstock Engineering for Biofuels" during **workshop** on "Genome Editing in Plants" from 27-31 May 2019 at University of Delhi South Campus, New Delhi, India
- ✓ Oral Presentation on "Optimization of genome editing tools for deciphering multilevel regulation of male fertility in sorghum" on Feb 28, 2019 at Convention Center, JNU, New Delhi, India.
- ✓ Oral Presentation on "Transcriptional landscape of reproductive organs in sorghum" on April 25, 2018 at Joint BioEnergy Institute, Berkeley, California, USA
- ✓ Attended 6th **Plant Genomics & Gene Editing Congress** on Oct 1-2, 2018 at Philadelphia, USA and presented a poster entitled "Transcriptional landscape of sorghum anthers".
- ✓ Participated in DOE review at Joint BioEnergy Institute by presenting work on **Optimization of genome editing tools** for plant engineering for biofuel production on Dec 4, 2018.
- ✓ Participated in **LabTech 2018** computing outreach and training event organized by Lawrence Berkeley National Laboratory on October 25, 2018.
- ✓ Attended Feedstocks Annual Meeting on Oct 18, 2018 at UC Berkeley Botanical Garden, Berkeley, CA, USA
- ✓ Attended symposium on "**Endless Forms"** at UC Berkeley on June 29, 2018.
- ✓ Attended "Data Carpentry-Genomics" workshop on May 3 and 4, 2018 organized by Lawrence Berkeley National Laboratories at Berkeley lab.
- ✓ Worked as **School Representative** for organizing **Open Day** on 27 October 2017 at Jawaharlal Nehru University, New Delhi
- ✓ Served as **Warden, Ganga Hostel**, JNU (March 2015 to January 2018).
- ✓ **Invited Lecture** on "Grass Feedstock Engineering for Biofuels" during 86th Conference of Society of Biological Chemists (**SBC-2017**) from 16-19 Nov 2017 at Convention Center, JNU, New Delhi, India
- ✓ Organized a workshop on **Scientific Manuscript Writing and Reference Management** during the National Conference of Plant Physiology-2017 at Indira Gandhi Krishi Vishwavidyalaya, Raipur, India from Nov 23-25, 2017.
- ✓ Distance Learning course on General **Intellectual Property** by World Intellectual Property Organization from Oct 16 to Nov 29, 2017.
- ✓ Organized a workshop on **Scientific Manuscript Writing** and Reference Management on 8th Dec 2016 during the National Conference of Plant Physiology at UAS GKVK, Bengaluru.

- ✓ **Invited Lecture**, Departmental Seminar Series at Centre of Computational Biology, Indraprastha Institute of Information Technology, Delhi (**IIITD**), India on August 9, 2016, entitled "Role of Computational Biology in Crop Improvement".
- ✓ Participated in **3rd International Plant Physiology Congress**: Challenges and Strategies in Plant Biology Research, Dec 11-14, 2015 at JNU as an **organizer**.
- ✓ **Invited Lecture**, ICAR sponsored summer school on **RNA-interference** As a Tool for Plant Functional genomics and Crop Improvement, May 2015, ICAR-NRCPB, New Delhi, India entitled "RNAi to Optimize Grass Cell Walls for Biofuel Production".
- ✓ **Invited Lecture**, **International Conference on Emerging Trends in Biotechnology**, Nov 2014, Jawaharlal Nehru University, New Delhi, India entitled "Leveraging model systems to improve sugar yields and sustainability in bioenergy grasses".
- ✓ Participated actively as an "**organizer**" in International Conference on Emerging Trends in Biotechnology (**ICETB 2014**), Nov 6-9, 2014 at Jawaharlal Nehru University.
- ✓ Successfully completed the **UGC sponsored orientation course** organized by Human Resource Development Centre, Jawaharlal Nehru University during 8th February 2016 to 4th March 2016 with **grade A**.
- ✓ Attended workshop on a LIMS based portal for **Plant Metabolomics**, CCPM on Feb 24, 2016 organized by JNU, New Delhi and IIIT-Hyderabad.
- ✓ Workshop on DST-sponsored Mass Spectrometry for **Proteomics** at Advanced Instrumentation Facility, JNU, New Delhi, on 6 to 8 Aug 2014
- ✓ **Invited Lecture**, Summer Research Program, June 2013, Jawaharlal Nehru University, New Delhi, INDIA, entitled "**Systems biology** approaches to infer gene regulatory networks in plants".
- ✓ **Speaker**, Young Investigators Meeting, Oct 2012, MIT Boston, USA; entitled "Elucidating stress-regulatory crosstalk in grasses".
- ✓ **Speaker**, Joint Bioenergy Institute/ Energy Biosciences Institute Feedstock Meeting in May 2012, JBEI Emeryville, CA, USA; entitled "Network-guided predictions and switchgrass sequencing".
- ✓ **Speaker**, Joint Bioenergy Institute Feedstock meeting in April 2012 at University of California, Davis, USA, entitled "The power of RNA Sequencing and data analysis pipeline".
- ✓ **Speaker**, Plant & Animal Genome XX, Perennial Grasses Workshop in Jan 2011, San Diego USA; entitled "Switchgrass Genome Structure and Organization".
- ✓ **Speaker**, Director Meeting in Oct 2011, NIFA, Washington, USA entitled "Identification of genes controlling disease resistance to mitigate disease pressure of bioenergy crops".
- ✓ **Speaker**, JGI User Meeting, March 2010, JGI Walnut Creek, USA, entitled "BAC library characterization, screening and phylomics analysis".
- ✓ Workshop on **Next generation sequencing** workshop sept 13-17, 2010 by Genome Center, UC Davis

- ✓ Workshop in Advanced Microarray Techniques-**Microarray data analysis** by IISc and Genotypic Technology on Jan 30, 2006.
- ✓ Completed certificate course on General Intellectual Property (DL101) from World Intellectual Property Organization (WIPO), Geneva, Switzerland

List of Publications (Rita Sharma, Maiden Name: Rita Arora):

2020

1) Wierbowski SD, Vo TV, Falter-Braun P, Jobe TO, Kruse LH, Wei X, Liang J, Meyer MJ, Akturk N, Rivera-Erick CA, Cordero NA, Paramo MI, Shayhidin EE, Bertolotti M, Tippens ND, Akther K, **Sharma R**, Katayose Y, Salehi-Ashtiani K, Hao T, Ronald PC, Ecker JR, Schweitzer PA, Kikuchi S, Mizuno H, Hill DE, Vidal M, Moghe GD, McCouch SR, and Yu H. A massively parallel barcoded sequencing pipeline enables generation of the first single-colony ORFeome and high-quality protein-protein interactome map for rice ***Proc Natl Acad Sci USA***, Vol 117, 21, (2020).
2) Singh V., Kumar N., Dwivedi A.K., **Sharma R.,** Sharma M.K. Phylogenomic Analysis of R2R3 MYB Transcription Factors in Sorghum and their Role in Conditioning Biofuel Syndrome. ***Current Genomics*** Vol 1, DOI: 10.2174/1389202921666200326152119.
3) Mathur S., Priyadarshini SS., Singh V., Vashisht I., Jung K.H., **Sharma R.**, and Sharma M.K. Comprehensive phylogenomic analysis of ERF genes in sorghum provides clues to the evolution of gene functions and redundancy among gene family members. ***3 Biotech***, *In Press* (2020).
4) **Sharma R**., Liang Y., Lee M Y., Pidtala V.R. Motimer J C., and Scheller H.V. Agrobacterium-mediated transient transformation of sorghum leaves for accelerating functional genomics and genome editing studies. ***BMC Research Notes***, *In Press* (2020)
5) Dhaka N., Krishnan K., Kandpal M., Vashisht I., Pal M., Sharma MK. and **Sharma R*.** Transcriptional trajectories of anther development provide candidates for engineering male fertility in sorghum. ***Scientific Reports*** 10, 897 (2020).

2019

6) Dhaka N., Sharma S., Vashisht I., Kandpal M., Sharma MK. and **Sharma R*.** Small RNA profiling from meiotic and post-meiotic anthers reveals prospective miRNA-target modules for engineering male fertility in sorghum. ***Genomics***, 2019, https://doi.org/10.1016/j.ygeno.2019.09.009.
7) Chandran AKN., Moon S., Yoo, YH., Gho YS., Cao P., **Sharma R**., Sharma MK. Ronald PC and Jung KH (2019) A web-based tool for the prediction of rice transcription factor functions. ***Database***, *2019, baz061*.

2018

8) Kundu S*. and **Sharma R*.** (2018) Origin, evolution, and divergence of plant class C GH9 endoglucanases. ***BMC Evolutionary Biology*** 18 (1), 79.

2017

9) Dhaka N. and **Sharma R*.** (2017) MicroRNAs as targets for engineering biofuel feedstock Sorghum. ***Plant Physiology Reports*** (Formerly ***Indian Journal of Plant Physiology***) 22 (4): 484-492.

10) Mangal M., Srivastava A., **Sharma R.** and Kalia P. (2017) Conservation and dispersion of genes conferring resistance to tomato begomoviruses between tomato and pepper genomes. ***Frontiers in Plant Science*** 8, 1803.

11) Mathur S., Umakanth A.V., Tonapi V.A., **Sharma R*.** and Sharma M.K* (2017) Sweet sorghum as biofuel feedstock: recent advances and available resources. ***Biotechnol Biofuels*** 10, 146.

12) Park CJ., Wei T., **Sharma R.** and Ronald P.C. (2017) Overexpression of rice auxilin-like protein, XB21 induces nectrotic lesions, up-regulates endocytosis-related genes, and confers enhanced resistance to *Xanthomons oryzae* pv. *oryzae*. ***Rice*** 10(1), 27.

13) Dhaka N., Bhardwaj V., Sharma M.K. and **Sharma R*.** (2017) Evolving Tale of TCPs: New Paradigms and Old Lacunae. ***Frontiers in Plant Science*** 8, 479.

2016

14) Francis A., Dhaka N., Bakshi., Jung K.H., Sharma M.K. and **Sharma R*.** (2016) Comparative phylogenomic analysis provides insights into TCP gene functions in *Sorghum*. ***Scientific Reports*** 6.

15) **Sharma R.,** Wungrampha W., Singh V., Pareek A. and Sharma, M.K. (2016) Halophytes as Bioenergy Crops. ***Frontiers in Plant Science*** 7: 1372.

16) Kundu S., **Sharma R*.** (2016) *In silico* Identification and taxonomic distribution of plant class C GH9 endoglucanases. ***Frontiers in Plant Science*** 7: 1185.

17) Chandran A.K.N., Yoo Y.H., Cao P., **Sharma R**., Sharma M.K., Dardick C., Ronald P.C. and Jung K.H. (2016) Updated rice kinase database RKD 2.0: enabling transcriptome and functional analysis of rice kinase genes. ***Rice*** 9:40.

18) Harkenrider M., **Sharma R**., Vleesschauwer D.D., Tsao, L., Zhang X., Chern M., Canlas P., Zuo S. and Ronald P.C. (2016) Overexpression of rice Wall-Associated Kinase 25 (WAK25) alters resistance to bacterial and fungal pathogens. ***Plos One*** 11 (1):e0147310.

19) Sharma M.K*., **Sharma R***., Cao P., Harkenrider M., Jenkins J., Grimwood J., Zhang J., Udvardi M.K., Schmutz J. and Ronald P.C. (2016) Targeted switchgrass BAC library

screening and sequence analysis identifies predicted biomass-related and stress response-related genes. ***BioEnergy Research***, 9 (1): 109-122.* First Co-Author

2015

20) Jung K.H., Cao P., **Sharma R.,** Jain R., and Ronald, P.C. (2015) Phylogenomics databases for facilitating functional genomics in rice. ***Rice***, 8: 26.

21) **Sharma R.,** Mishra M., Gupta B., Parsania C., Pareek S.L.S., and Pareek A. (2015) De Novo assembly and characterization of stress transcriptome in a salinity-tolerant variety CS52 of *Brassica juncea.* ***Plos One.*** 10(5):e0126783.

22) Lao J., Sharma M.K., **Sharma R.,** Fernandez-Nino S.M G., Schmutz J., Ronald P.C., Haezlewood J.L., and Schwessinger. (2015) Proteome profile of the endomembrance of developing coleoptiles from switchgrass (*Panicum virgatum*). ***Proteomics***. 15(13): 2286-90.

2013

23) **Sharma R**., Cao P., Jung K.H., Sharma M.K. & Ronald P.C. (2013) Construction of a rice glycoside hydrolase phylogenomic database and identification of targets for biofuel research. ***Frontiers in Plant Biotechnology.*** 4, 330.

24) Nayar S., **Sharma R.,** Tyagi, A.K. and Kapoor, S. (2013) Functional delineation of rice MADS29 reveals its role in embryo and endosperm development by affecting hormone homeostasis. ***Journal of Experimental Botany***, 64 (14), 4239-4253.

25) **Sharma R.,** Vleesschauwer D.D., Sharma M.K. & Ronald P.C. (2013***)*** Recent advances in dissecting stress regulatory crosstalk in rice (Review Article). ***Molecular Plant***, 6 (2), 250-260.

26) Park C.J*., **Sharma R*.,** Lefebvre B., Canlas P.E. & Ronald P.C. (2013) The endoplasmic reticulum-quality control component SDF2 is essential for XA21-mediated immunity in rice. ***Plant Science***, 210, 53-60. * First co-author

27) Rodrigues J.A., Ruan R., Nishimura T., Sharma M., **Sharma R.,** Ronald P.C., Fischer, R.L., Zilberman, D. (2013) Imprinted expression of genes and small RNA is associated with localized hypomethylation of the maternal genome in rice endosperm. ***P.N.A.S.***, 110 (19), 7934-7939.

28) Zhang J.Y., Lee Y.C., Jerez I. T., Wang M., Yin Y., Chou W.C., He J., Shen H., Pennacchio C., Lindquist E., Grimwood J., Schmutz J., Xu Y., Sharma M. K., **Sharma R.,** Ronald P. Saha M., Dixon R., Tang Y. and Udvardi M. (2013) Development of an integrated transcript sequence database and a gene expression atlas for gene discovery and analysis in switchgrass (*Panicum virgatum* L.). ***The Plant Journal***, 74 (1), 160-73.

2012

29) **Sharma R**[*]., Agarwal P[*]., Ray S., Deveshwar P., Sharma P., Sharma N., Nijhawan A., Jain M., Singh A.K., Singh V.P., Khurana J.P., Tyagi A.K. & Kapoor S. (2012) Expression dynamics of metabolic and regulatory components across stages of panicle and seed development in *indica* rice. ***Funct Integr Genomics***, 12 (2),229-248. [*] First co-author

30) Sharma M.K., **Sharma R**., Cao P., Jenkins J., Bartley L.E., Qualls M., Grimwood J., Schmutz J., Rokhsar D. & Ronald P.C. (2012) A genome-wide survey of switchgrass genome structure and organization. ***PLoS ONE,*** 7(4): e33892.

31) Bennetzen J.L., Schmutz J., Wang H., Percifield R., Hawkins J., Pontaroli A.C., Estep M., Feng L., Vaughn J.N., Grimwood J., Jenkins J., Barry K., Lindquist E., Hellsten U., Deshpande S., Wang X., Wu X., Mitros T., Triplett J., Yang X., Ye C., Mauro-Herrara M., Wang L., Li P., Sharma M.K., **Sharma R**., Ronald P.C., Panaud O., Kellogg E.A., Bruntnell T., Doust A., Tuskan G.A., Rokhsar D. & Devos K.M. (2012) Reference genome sequence of the model plant *Setaria.* ***Nature Biotech,*** 30, 555-561.

32) Varanasi P., Katsnelson J., Larson D., **Sharma R.**, Sharma M. K., Vega-Sanchez M.E., Zemla M., Ronald P.C., Simmons B., Sing S., Adams P. and Auer M. (2012) Mechanical stress analysis as a method to understand the impact of genetically engineered rice and *Arabidopsis* plants. ***Industrial Biotechnology,*** 8(4) 238-244.

2011

33) **Sharma R.,** Tan F., Jung K.H., Sharma M.K., Peng Z. & Ronald P.C. (2011) Transcriptional dynamics during cell wall removal and regeneration reveals key genes involved in cell wall development in rice. ***Plant Mol Biol***, 77, 391-406.

34) Deveshwar P., Bovill W.D., **Sharma R.,** Able J.A. & Kapoor S. (2011) Analysis of anther transcriptomes to identify genes contributing to meiosis and male gametophyte development in rice. ***BMC Plant Biol***, 11, 78.

35) Ray S., Dansana P.K., Giri J., Deveshwar P., **Arora R.,** Agarwal P., Khurana J.P., Kapoor S. & Tyagi A.K. (2011) Modulation of transcription factor and metabolic pathway genes in response to water-deficit stress in rice. ***Funct Integr Genomics***, 11, 157-178.

2010

36) Gaur R., Grover T., **Sharma R.,** Kapoor S. & Khare S.K. (2010) Purification and characterization of a solvent stable aminopeptidase from *Pseudomonas aeruginosa*: Cloning and analysis of aminopeptidase gene conferring solvent stability. ***Process Biochemistry***, 45, 757-764.

37) Sharma M.K., Kumar R., Solanke A.U., **Sharma R.,** Tyagi A.K. & Sharma A.K. (2010) Identification, phylogeny, and transcript profiling of ERF family genes during development and abiotic stress treatments in tomato. ***Mol Genet Genomics***, 284, 455-475.

38) Park C.J., Lee S.W., Chern M., **Sharma R**., Canlas P.E., Song M.Y., Jeon J.S. & Ronald P.C. (2010) Ectopic expression of rice *Xa21* overcomes developmentally controlled resistance to *Xanthomonas oryzae* pv. *oryzae*. ***Plant Sci***, 179, 466-471.

2009

39) **Sharma R**., Mohan Singh R.K., Malik G., Deveshwar P., Tyagi A.K., Kapoor S. & Kapoor M. (**2009**) Rice cytosine DNA methyltransferases - gene expression profiling during reproductive development and abiotic stress. ***FEBS J***, 276, 6301-6311.

2008

40) Kapoor M., **Arora R**., Lama T., Nijhawan A., Khurana J.P., Tyagi A.K. & Kapoor S. (**2008**) Genome-wide identification, organization and phylogenetic analysis of Dicer-like, Argonaute and RNA-dependent RNA Polymerase gene families and their expression analysis during reproductive development and stress in rice. ***BMC Genomics***, 9, 451.

2007

41) **Arora R.,** Agarwal P., Ray S., Singh A.K., Singh V.P., Tyagi A.K. & Kapoor S. (**2007**) MADS-box gene family in rice: genome-wide identification, organization and expression profiling during reproductive development and stress. ***BMC Genomics***, 8, 242.

42) Agarwal P., **Arora R**., Ray S., Singh A.K., Singh V.P., Takatsuji H., Kapoor S. & Tyagi A.K. (**2007**) Genome-wide identification of C2H2 zinc-finger gene family in rice and their phylogeny and expression analysis. ***Plant Mol Biol,*** 65, 467-485.

43) Jain M., Nijhawan A., **Arora R.,** Agarwal P., Ray S., Sharma P., Kapoor S., Tyagi A.K. & Khurana J.P. (**2007**) F-box proteins in rice. Genome-wide analysis, classification, temporal and spatial gene expression during panicle and seed development, and regulation by light and abiotic stress. ***Plant Physiol*****,** 143, 1467-1483.

44) Ray S., Agarwal P., **Arora R.,** Kapoor S. & Tyagi A.K. (**2007**) Expression analysis of calcium-dependent protein kinase gene family during reproductive development and abiotic stress conditions in rice (*Oryza sativa* L. ssp. *indica*). ***Mol Genet Genomics***, 278, 493-505.

Book Chapters/Proceedings

1) Gupta P., **Sharma R**., Sharma M.K., Sharma M.P., Stapute G.K., Garg S., Singla-Pareek, S.L., Pareek A. (**2016**) Signaling cross talk between biotic and abiotic stress responses in soybean. **Abiotic and Biotic Stresses in Soybean Production: Soybean Production**, Volume 1, 27-52. Publisher: Oxford: Academic Press, Editors: Mohammad Miransari.

2) Tyagi A.K., Khurana J.P., Khurana P., Kapoor S., Singh V.P., Singh A.K., Thakur J.K., Gupta V., Anand S., Vij S., Jain M., Ray S., Agarwal P., **Arora R.**, Sharma P., Mukerjee S., Nijhawan A., Giri J. & Khurana R. (**2005**) Expression and functional analysis of rice genes involved in reproductive development and stress response. ***Rice Genetics V Proceedings of 5th International Genetics Symposium IRRI*, Philippines**, 313-330. World Scientific Publishing Co. Pte. Ltd. 5 Toh Tuck Link, Singapore