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### About the Author

**Anil Kumar** :- Anil Kumar is Assistant Professor in the Department of Energy, Maulana Azad National Institute of Technology (MANIT), Bhopal, India

**Ashwani Pareek** :- Ashwani Pareek was born in New Delhi, India, in 1969. Currently, he is an Associate Professor of Life Sciences at the Jawaharlal Nehru University (JNU), New Delhi. He obtained his B.Sc (Botany) and M.Sc. (Plant Molecular Biology) in 1990 and 1992, respectively, from the University of Delhi, India. He was introduced to the exciting field of Stress Physiology and Molecular Biology of plants during his Master's thesis and his Ph.D. research work under the guidance of Professor Anil Grover at the Department of Plant Molecular Biology, University of Delhi South Campus (UDSC), New Delhi. His research work during Ph.D. focused on the analysis of heat shock proteins (HSPs, especially HSP90) and salt stress proteins (SSPs) in rice. After completing his Ph.D. in 1997, he worked at the laboratory of Professor Ralph S. Quatrano, at the University of North Carolina, Chapel Hill, NC, USA to learn "advanced plant molecular biology", In 1998, he joined the laboratory of Professor Deepak Pental as a Research Scientist at Delhi University to work on herbicide tolerant Brassica juncea. Soon thereafter, he was appointed as a Lecturer at the newly established GGS Indraprastha University, New Delhi, India, where he played a key role in establishing the School of Biotechnology. After serving this University for four years, he was appointed, in 2003, on the faculty of the School of Life Sciences (SLS) at JNU. The main focus of his research has been towards an understanding of the signaling machinery in plants operative under osmotic stresses such as salinity and drought. He uses the tools of functional genomics, transgenics, bioinformatics and metabolomics to dissect out the cascades of events leading to these stresses in plants, especially the steps involved in "osmosensing". During this period of research, he has highly benefited from collaborations with laboratories of Professor Hans Bohnert (at the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign, Illinois, USA), and Professor Roger A. Leigh (University of Cambridge, UK). Ashwani's honors include: the Indian National Science Academy (INSA)-ROYAL SOCIETY (UK) exchange visitor's fellowship 2005 (to work at University of Cambridge, UK); the BOYSCAST Fellowship by Ministry of Science and Technology, Government of India (2001); award of "The Rockefeller Foundation" Post-doctoral fellowship in the area of advanced 'Plant Molecular Biology' as a part of the 'Rice Biotechnology Program' to work in the laboratory of Professor Ralph S. Quatrano. He has been awarded Associateship from National Academy of Agricultural Sciences (NAAS) and he is also nominated a member of National academy of Sciences, India (NASI).

**Sanjay Mohan Gupta** :- Sanjay Mohan Gupta did his Masters in Biotechnology from School of Biotechnology, Devi Ahilya University, Indore in 1999 and was ranked second in the university. In his Master's dissertation, he worked on enzyme immobilization technology and developed an indigenous bed-reactor using brick dust immobilized CM-Cellulase enzyme isolated from Cowpea (*Vigna sinensis* L.). He did his PhD degree in Biochemistry in 2007 from University of Lucknow, Lucknow and worked on genetic manipulation of banana fruit ripening. He has isolated and characterized ethylene regulated and ripening related 27 novel genes from banana pulp tissue by differential-display (DDRT-PCR) method and also studied ethylene biosynthesis, respiratory climacteric and activities of the various ripening related enzymes during ripening in banana. In his professional career, he has been working as senior scientist at Defence Institute of Bio-energy Research (DIBER) since 2004. He is involved in research project funded by DRDO and investigating the isolation and characterization of cold tolerant genes from the high altitude indigenous cold tolerant Seabuckthorn (*Hippophae salicifolia* L.) plant for genetic transformation of the vegetable crops. He has published 20 research papers, semi scientific papers in leading national and international journals. He is a coauthor of two books in the field biotechnology. He is also a member of the Indian Science Congress, professional society and other various scientific committees.