



INDIAN COUNCIL OF  
AGRICULTURAL RESEARCH

NATIONAL AWARD FOR EXCELLENCE  
IN AGRICULTURAL RESEARCH

**RAFI AHMED KIDWAI AWARD FOR  
OUTSTANDING RESEARCH IN AGRICULTURAL SCIENCES 2020**  
(For Crop & Horticultural Sciences)

**Dr. Om Parkash Yadav**

Director, Central Arid Zone Research Institute, Jodhpur

**CITATION**



**Dr. Om Parkash Yadav**, Director, Central Arid Zone Research Institute, Jodhpur, has been awarded Rafi Ahmed Kidwai Award for Outstanding Research in Agricultural Sciences 2020 in the category of Crop & Horticultural Sciences. Dr. Yadav has focused his work for the last 30 years on genetic improvement of crops especially of pearl millet and maize for drought-prone areas. The focal point of his strategic research has been improvement of crops for water-limited environments through conventional and modern methods. His work has led to better understanding of adaptation of crops to drought stress conditions helping in evolving appropriate strategies for developing stress-adapted cultivars. The research on studying the cytoplasmic effects on disease incidence and agronomic traits in pearl millet has a great relevance in hybrid breeding. The results of research of his team led to the release of 12 commercial cultivars; and identification of 15 sources of drought tolerance, 7 sources of diseases resistance, 3 genetic stocks and a large number of germplasm, genetic stocks and breeding materials suitable for drought-prone areas. The most immediate impact of this research is the reorientation of the crop breeding activities for drought-prone areas and included changes in objectives, base material for breeding and approaches for selection.