

## Indian bags Ernesto Illy Trieste Science Prize



Pramod Kumar Aggarwal, ICAR National Professor at the Indian Agricultural Research Institute, New Delhi, has been awarded the 2009 Ernesto Illy Trieste Science Prize by

the Italy based TWAS, the world's foremost international academy for scientists from the developing world. The award, consisting of a trophy, a certificate and a prize of US\$ 100,000, is designed to bring recognition and distinction to the developing world's most eminent scientists. He shared the prize with a Brazilian scientist, Carlos Clemente Cerri. The award has been given for his scientific leadership and contributions to enhance

the understanding of the vulnerability of agriculture in the developing countries to climate change.

Aggarwal has contributed significantly to the quantitative assessment of the possible impacts of global climate change on Indian agriculture. He has used mechanistic crop models, field experiments and free-air CO<sub>2</sub> enrichment rings to show that increase in CO<sub>2</sub> to 550 ppm enhances the yields of most crops by up to 15% in tropical environments. Such gains are, however, lost as temperature increases. He has further shown that several simple adaptations can minimize these losses. His extensive work on climate risk analysis has helped in developing the weather derivatives-based insurance, an important risk management

strategy for climate variability. He has developed several models and Decision Support Systems including InfoCrop – a dynamic crop simulation model with sensitivity to parameters such as soil, weather, management, pests and variety – which is currently being used by a large number of scientists. Aggarwal was the coordinating lead author for the agriculture chapter of the 4th Assessment Report of the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) 2007 and is the coordinator of the Indian government's national network on climate change and agriculture entitled 'Impacts, adaptation and vulnerability of Indian agriculture to climate change'.

**Richa Malhotra**

## ISCA Young Scientist Award

The Indian Science Congress Association (ISCA) has announced the winners of its Young Scientist Award 2009–10. The Award, since its inception in 1981, is given in 14 categories every year to research scholars below 32 years of age. The award consists of a certificate of merit and a prize of Rs 25,000.

This year the awardees in the various categories are as follows: Agriculture and Forestry Sciences: M. P. Raghavendra (University of Mysore, Mysore); Animal, Veterinary and Fishery Sciences: Mahua Gupta Choudhury (North Eastern Hill University, Shillong); Anthropological and Behavioural Sciences (including Archaeology and Psychology, and Educational Sciences and Military Sciences): Priyanka Singh (Dr

Hari Singh Gour University, Sagar); Chemical Sciences: I. Ravikumar (Indian Association for the Cultivation of Science, Kolkata); Earth System Sciences: Chandrani Singh (National Geophysical Research Institute, Hyderabad); Engineering Sciences: Subimal Ghosh (Indian Institute of Technology Bombay, Mumbai); Environmental Sciences: Divya Bajpai (R. D. University, Jabalpur); Information and Communication Science & Technology: Gaurav Gupta (Ministry of Home Affairs, Government of India, New Delhi); Materials Science: Kantesh Balani (Indian Institute of Technology Kanpur, Kanpur); Mathematical Sciences (including Statistics): Arabin Kumar Dey (Indian Institute of Technology Kanpur, Kanpur); Medical Sciences (including

Physiology): Debases Pore (National Institute of Cholera and Enteric Diseases, Kolkata); New Biology (including Biochemistry, Biophysics, and Biotechnology and Molecular Biology): Suneel Kateriya (University of Delhi South Campus, New Delhi); Physical Sciences: Sunil Kumar Singh (Banaras Hindu University, Varanasi); Plant Sciences: Siddharth Tiwari (National Botanical Research Institute, Lucknow) and Sangram Keshari Lenka (Indian Agricultural Research Institute, New Delhi).

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