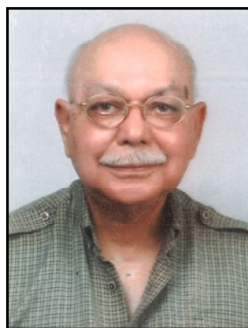


## GREAT GURUS OF AGROMETEOROLOGY IN INDIA



**Dr. S.M. Virmani**

Dr. S.M. Virmani was born in Bannu, India on 28 January 1938. Dr. Virmani had brilliant academic Career and obtained his Ph.D degree in Soil Science from IARI, New Delhi. He did post Doctoral Research at National Institute of Agronomy, Paris, France during the year 1964-65. Currently, he is an Advisor, Indian Resources Information and Management Technologies Ltd. (INRIMT), Hyderabad, 2006 to date.

Dr. Virmani has held several important positions including Professor of Soil Science and Chief Scientist [Dryland Agriculture], Haryana Agricultural University, 1971-75; Visiting Scientist, Canadian Department of Agriculture, 1973; Visiting Research Fellow, Farming Systems Research Program, 1977-81, and Leader, Farming Systems Research Program, 1981-85, International Crops Research Institute for the Semi- Arid Tropics (ICRISAT), Patancheru, A.P. India; Visiting Professor, Evapotranspiration Laboratory, Kansas State University, Manhattan, Kansas, USA, 1984-85; Principal Agro-climatologist, Natural Resources Management Program, 1986-91, and Team Leader, Agronomy, 1991-98, ICRISAT; Coordinator, ADB-assisted Asian Watersheds Research Program, 1999-2001.

Dr. Virmani has made valuable contribution for growth and development of the discipline of Agricultural Meteorology by introducing innovative techniques for agroclimatic characterization integrating soils, agriculture and climate data bases with the help of Geographic Information System. He was the first scientist in India to introduce the concept of crop growth simulation modeling through net work research programme and was instrumental in developing models for Sorghum, Peanut, Chickpea and Pearl Millet. He was also responsible for expansion of the All India Coordinated Research Project on Agrometeorology in ICAR, while he was Chairman for Quinquennial Review Team for the project. He has immensely contributed for human resource development by organizing several training programmes on frontier areas of research in the field of Agricultural Meteorology and Natural Resource Management at ICRISAT, Hyderabad for the benefit of the scientists in National Agricultural Research System in India.

He has received several distinguished awards for his valuable contributions in the field of Soil Science and Agrometeorology like Lifetime Service Achievement Award, Soil and Water Conservation Society, India; ICRISAT Dedicated Research Service Awards, 1986 and 1996. He served as Chairman, Commission VI, International Union of Soil Sciences, 1994-1998; Member, American Society of Agronomy; National Geographical Society, USA. Fellow of Indian Society of Soil Science, National Academy of Agriculture Sciences and National Academy of Sciences, India.

Dr. Virmani is currently busy (post retirement) in several academic pursuits. He regularly lectures at the National Academy of Agricultural Research Management (NAARM) on project proposal writing; he is Foreign Secretary of the National Academy of Agriculture Sciences (NAAS); and he is a member of the ICAR's Empowered committee – NFBSFARA (National Fund for Basic Strategic and Frontier Sciences Research in Agriculture), where he chairs the Natural Resources desk. Dr. S.M. Virmani's interest in the advancement of Agrometeorological/ agroclimatological sciences to advance and support sustainable/ conservation agriculture has not diminished with age, and he is always available to serve the scientific pursuits.