

Dr Usha Sharma
Senior Scientist & Head, KVK Shimla
Specialization: Plant Pathology (Plant Virology)
Contact: Mobile: +91 9418078973
E.mail: ushaanandsharma@rediff.com; ushampp@yaspuniversity.ac.in



Ongoing Research Projects

- Development of Subhash Palekar Natural Farming (SPNF) Model in apple funded by State Department of Agriculture, Shimla, HP for ₹1.13 crores from 2019 to 2024 (Principal Investigator).
- Validation of prediction system of apple foliar diseases based on virtual weather station funded by BAYER India for ₹27.14 lakhs from 2022 to 2024 (Principal Investigator).
- Evaluation of new and brand name fungicides/ formulations against plant diseases (long term) funded by different pesticide companies for ₹ 68.00 lakhs (Collaborator).
- Himachal Pradesh Horticulture Development Project (HP-HDP) Sub component “Pest Surveillance and Forecasting/Forewarning System of Horticulture Department funded by World Bank for ₹ 153.12 Lakh from 2017 to 2023 (Collaborator).
- Agroecological crop protection towards International Co- innovation Dynamics and Evidence of Sustainability (ACROPICS) funded by European Research Executive Agency (REA) for Eur. 1656000 from 2023-2027.

Important Research Publications:

- Bhandari, D. P., Sharma, U., Sharma, M., Thakur, A. K., & Kumar, A. (2024). First report of *Nectria dematiosa* causing European canker of apple in India. *Journal of Phytopathology*, 00, e13328. <https://doi.org/10.1111/jph.13328>
- Neelam K, Sharma U, Sharma S and Gupta B. 2022. Diversity and relative abundance of insect fauna of apple (*Malus domestica* Borkh.) in high density plantation. *Journal of Entomological Research* 46 (1): 158-2.
- Watpade S, Mhatre PH, Pramanic KK, Shukla AK, Kumar J and Sharma U. 2022. Studies on white root rot of apple caused by *Dematophora necatrix*. *Indian Phytopathology*. <https://doi.org/10.1007/s42360-022-00481-0>.
- Watpade S, Kumar R, Bhardwaj P, Pramanick KK, Shukla AK, Baswaraj R, Kumar J, Sharma U, Vashisth S and Verma S. 2021. Establishment of virusfree elite mother orchards of apple in the Trans-Himalayan region of India. *Indian Phytopathology* <https://doi.org/10.1007/s42360-021-00412-5>.
- Sharma U, Watpade S and Gupta B. 2020. Economic losses due to infection by apple scar skin viroid in Himachal Pradesh, India. *Virus Disease* <https://doi.org/10.1007/s13337-020-00625-8>.

- Watpade S, Baswaraj R, Pramanick KK, Sharma N, Handa A and Sharma U. 2013. Simultaneous detection of Apple Chlorotic Leaf Spot Virus and Apple Mosaic Virus in crab apples and apple rootstocks by duplex RT-PCR. *Scientia Horticulturae* 164: 88-3.
- Walia Y, Kumar Y, Rana T, Bhardwaj P, Ram R, Thakur PD, Sharma U, Hallan V and Zaidi A. 2009. Molecular characterization and variability analysis of Apple scar skin viroid in India. *Journal of General Plant Pathology* 75(4): 307-1.
- Tomar M, Thakur PD, Handa A, Sharma U and Jarial K. 2008. Serological detection of viruses infecting apple in Himachal Pradesh. *Indian Phytopathology* 62(3): 404.
- Thakur PD, Handa A, Sharma U, Jarial K and Bhaik A. 2007. A phytoplasma associated disease causing degeneration of Toona ciliate – An important agroforestry tree in India. *Indian Journal of Agroforestry* 9(1): 56-9.

International Visits:

- Serbia: Training-cum-exposure visit on Nursery Management, November 25 - December 4, 2023
- Cote d'Ivoire, Africa: Regional Conference on Green Innovation Centres, May 11 - 19, 2024

Awards & Recognitions:

- Received an appreciation letter from Sh Suresh Kumar, Hon'ble Member, Board of Management, Dr YS Parmar, UHF, Nauni, Solan through Hon'ble Vice Chancellor of the university for commendable efforts to decrease use of agrochemicals and in increasing awareness about natural farming among the farmers.
- Best Presentation award in International e- conference on Postharvest Disease Management and Value Edition of Horticultural Crops held on August 18-20, 2021 at ICAR- IARI, New Delhi, India.
- 2nd Best poster award for research paper in Global Potato Conclave held on January 28-31, 2020 at Mahatma Mandir, Gandhinagar, Gujrat, India.
- 2nd Best paper award in National symposium held on October 27- 28, 2017 at YSP University of Hort. & Forestry, Nauni, Solan, HP