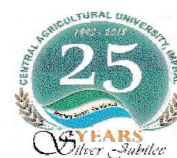




CENTRAL AGRICULTURAL UNIVERSITY
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17 October 2021

LETTER OF NOMINATION FOR ESI SENIOR ENTOMOLOGIST AWARD 2021

I recommend to Dr. Shravan Manbhar Haldhar, Associate Professor (Agricultural Entomology), Central Agricultural University, Manipur, India for consideration 'ESI Senior Entomologist Award 2021' from Entomological Society of India. A review of his credentials will confirm that Dr. Shravan M. Haldhar is one of the most deserving candidates for the 'ESI Senior Entomologist Award 2021'. He is a young and dynamic researcher with a deep affinity for the farming community of Tribal community and a broad interest in the agricultural sciences and environmental protection. His major contribution to the fields of sciences is the development of insect resistance varieties, IPM models and identification of arid crop insects for pest management strategies that discourage the indiscriminate and intensive use of environmentally hazardous chemical pesticides, and equally allows safe integration of biological control agents with other pest control methods without reducing the efficacy of bioagents.

Dr. Haldhar studied at Rajasthan Agricultural University, Bikaner (Rajasthan, India), graduating with a B.Sc. in Agriculture in a first class. He continued his studies at Rajasthan Agricultural University, Bikaner (Rajasthan, India), with his M.Sc. (Agricultural Entomology) focused on management of insect pests of mustard, *Brassica juncea* L. (Czern and Coss) with special reference to aphid, *Lipaphis erysimi* (Kalt), for inclusion in biointensive IPM programmes for controlling major insect-pests of mustard crop. During his Ph.D. at Maharana Pratap University of Agriculture and Technology, Udaipur (Rajasthan, India), Dr. Haldhar focused on eco-taxonomic studies on the grass hopper in south western Rajasthan, a highly polyphagous and invasive pest that had devastated the Indian economy. His work has been recognized and published as book 'Biosystematics of Grasshopper (Acridoidea) in India' from Lambert Academic Publishing (LAP) GmbH & Co.KG, Germany. After completion of his Ph.D., Dr. Haldhar joined the prestigious Agricultural Research Service (ARS) of ICAR as a Scientist (Agricultural Entomology) in 2009. He was posted at ICAR-Central Institute for Arid Horticulture, Bikaner (Rajasthan, India), where his research was mainly focused on development of resistance varieties against insect-pests of arid horticultural crops; IPM models and identification of arid horticultural pests in hot arid climate of India. In ten years service in ICAR-CIAH, he handled many projects as Survey of insect-pests, their natural enemies and pest management strategies for cucurbits in arid region of Rajasthan; Biology and management strategies for major insect pests of fruit crops in hot-arid region with special reference to ber, bael, datepalm and lasora and Borers management in arid and semi-arid horticulture crops. Dr. Haldhar is currently working at Central Agricultural University, Manipur, India. He is working on diverse projects such as AICRP on Honey bees and Pollinators; Network Project on Conservation of Lac Insect Genetic Resources and Implementation of mobile based agro advisory system (m4agri).

Dr. Haldhar has developed an expertise explicitly on host plant resistance study, integrated pest management models, identification arid horticultural pests, honey bees, edible insects, etc. He has collected and identified around ninety five insect species of horticultural importance in arid and semi-arid region, of which eleven species identified new hosts. He also developed 05 varieties of crops as ridge gourds (Thar Karni); long melon (Thar Seetal); sponge gourd (Thar Tapish); palak

(Thar Hariparna) and ivy gourd (Thar Sundari) and registered three trait specific genotypes of lasora (AHCM-22-1), muskmelon genotype (AHM/BR-8) and watermelon genotype (AHW/BR-5) in NBPGR, New Delhi. Dr. Haldhar has developed 31 technologies related to insect-pests management strategies in arid horticulture crops and applied one patent on biopesticide "**Thar Jaivik 41 EC: Patent Application-201911012592 dated 30-03.19**" for insect-pests management. Submitted 07 new DNA Bar-coding sequence data of arid horticulture crops insects to Gen Bank NCBI, USA. With a great affinity to agriculture and farmers, Dr. Haldhar has been proactive in transfer of advanced crop protection technologies to the farmers' fields through implementation of front-line demonstrations, varietal trials, frequent diagnostic field visits, organization of farmers' training programmes and agricultural exhibitions, delivering lectures in farmers' group discussions and providing agro-advisories and guidance through television and radio talks. He has delivered several lead talks on identification of pests, HPR, IPM, home-made biopesticide and safe handling of pesticides to the agriculture farmers, extension workers and field assistants. He keeps on writing popular articles frequently in local Hindi language on issues relevant to IPM in arid horticultural crops for benefiting to the farmers. For last two years, he is also involved in teaching of UG, PG and PhD students in NEH region of India. Besides core research, teaching and extension activities, Dr. Haldhar is equally engaged in guiding the Post Graduate students. He was a guide for mentoring and supervising the research work of seven M.Sc. and two Ph.D. students.

Dr. Haldhar has authored 13 peer-reviewed publications in international journals of high impact factor, 51 in national (Indian) peer-reviewed journals, 16 books/ compendium; 06 technical bulletin, 02 technical folder; 45 book chapters; and delivered 50 lectures. Because of excellent oral and written communication skills, Dr. Haldhar succeeded in attracting project funding from donor agencies and in bagging awards for presenting his research work in international and national conferences and symposia. He is fellow of 'The Entomological Society of India' and is the recipient of several awards and recognitions including Dr. B. Vasantharaj David Young Scientist Award 2019; Agriculture Today Young Scientist Award 2019; SAAER-Young Scientist Award 2016; AIASA-Scientist of the Year Award 2016 and IIFS-Rastriya Gaurava Award 2012. He has reviewed several manuscripts for various peer-reviewed journals like Arthropod Plant Interaction, Phytoparasitica, Vegetos, Journal of Pest Science, Current Science, Journal of Environmental Biology, Indian Journal of Agriculture Sciences and Indian Journal of Entomology. I am sure that with an in-depth professional knowledge and hands on experience, Dr. Haldhar is confident of designing, developing and adapting innovative research approaches in a multidisciplinary environment for meaningful outcomes for ecological and sustainable management of agricultural production systems. Further his rigorous involvement in capacity building of crop growers through diagnostic field visits, dissemination of crop protection technologies and farmers trainings and group discussions reveal his real zest to work at grass root level for socioeconomic upliftment of the farming community.

I strongly recommend Dr. Shravan M Haldhar for the Entomological Society of India '**ESI Senior Entomologist Award**' for the year 2021.

With Best regards,

Sincerely,



(Professor M Premjit Singh)
Former VC, CAU, Imphal