

Professional Engagements	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • May 1992 to May 1993- Project Fellow in USDA project on VAM relationships of arid zone trees in India at Department of Botany, University of Delhi, Delhi, INDIA. • June 1993 to August 1993- Research Fellow in Winrock International F/FRED project on VAM in the establishment of fuel wood/fodder tree legumes in arid zones at Department of Botany, University of Delhi, Delhi, INDIA. • 13th April 1994 to 2nd June 2004-Research Associate Centre for Mycorrhizal Research Bioresources & Biotechnology Division, The Energy and Resources Institute (TERI), Habitat Place, Lodhi Road, New Delhi 110 003, INDIA • 3rd June 2004 to 7th Feb 2006 - Fellow, Centre for Mycorrhizal Research, Bioresources & Biotechnology Division & Adjunct faculty TERI School of Advanced Studies, TERI, Lodhi Road, New Delhi 110 003, INDIA • 8th Feb 2006-7th Feb 2012-Senior Scientist (Microbiology) Directorate of Soybean Research (ICAR), Khandwa Road, Indore (M.P)-452001, INDIA • 8th Feb 2012-till date- Principal Scientist (Microbiology) Directorate of Soybean Research (ICAR), Khandwa Road, Indore (M.P)-452001, INDIA
Awards, recognition & visited abroad	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Gold medal award by the Rajasthan Agriculture University on having stood first during Master's degree programs (1998) • Best paper poster award for the contribution entitled “Metabolic diversity of root nodulating soybean rhizobia.....of Central” during First Asian PGPR Congress for sustainable Agriculture held at ANGARAU, Hyderabad (21-24 June 2009) authors (Sharma et al.). • Best paper award for the contribution entitled “Soil carbon sequestration through glomalin production by arbuscular mycorrhizal fungi.....organic and inorganic farming practices” presented during National Workshop on Carbon Sequestration in Forest and Non Forest Ecosystems (February 16-17, 2015) at JNKVV, Jabalpur; Authors (Agnihotri, Sharma and others). • Best paper award (Thirumalachar young scientist award) for the contribution entitled “Glomalin: A potential soil carbon sequestrator..... soybean-based cropping system” during National conference on fungal biotechnology and 43rdAnnual Meeting of Mycological Society of India held at BISR, Jaipur from Nov 16-18, 2016 (Authors: Agnihotri, Sharma and others). • Best paper poster award for the contribution on “application of moisture tolerant rhizobia.....in a field trial” during National conference on enhancing productivity of oilseed in changing climate scenario conference held at ICAR- Directorate of Groundnut Research. Junagarh, Gujarat from 7- 9 April, 2018 (Bharti, Sharma and others). • Best paper poster award for the contribution on “Coordination of crop and soil management practices.....in the rhizosphere of soybean in a long field trial” during National Conference on organic waste management for food and environment security held during Feb 8-10, 2018 held at ICAR-IISS, Bhopal (Authors- Agnihotri, Sharma and others) • Awarded DBT-CREST Overseas Award 2012-13 to work on signature fatty acid biomarkers in USDA-ARS, USA. • Awarded competitive travel grants (three times) from SERB, DST Govt. of India for visiting Australia, Portugal & USA to present research work in Rhizosphere 3 International Conference and International Symbiosis Congress held in Perth, Lisbon and Oregon during 2011, 2015 & 2018 respectively. • Visited MIDI, Sherlock's Microbial Identification INC. Newark, Delaware, USA and participated in 9th International Symbiosis Congress in Oregon State University, Corvallis, Oregon, USA from July 12-26, 2018. • Visited Research Institute of organic Agriculture, Frick, Switzerland, Swiss Federal Institute of

	<p>Technology (ETH) and Agroscope, Zurich, Switzerland for developing linkages in mycorrhizal research and soil nutritional aspects from July 21-23, 2015.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Participated in 8th International Symbiosis Congress in University of Lisbon, Portugal from July 12-18, 2015. • Deputed abroad by ICAR-DARE Govt of India under DBT-CREST Overseas award at USDA- ARS, BARC, Beltsville, MD, USA from Oct 2013 to April 2014 and worked fatty acid biomarkers. • Participated in Rhizosphere 3 International conference in Perth,, Australia from Sept 25-30, 2011 and made a oral presentation during the modeling and up-scaling session. • Deputed by TERI under a MoU agreement to organize a training on basic aspects of mycorrhizal research for Agricultural scientists at Soil and Water Research Institute, Ministry of Agriculture, Republic of Iran in Tehran (Feb 21st-9th March 2001). • Awarded certificate of reviewing by Elsevier for outstanding contribution in reviewing papers of Elsevier journals (European J Soil Biology, Ecological Engineering, Applied Soil Ecology, Bioresource technology, Progressive Agriculture etc.). <p>Members of Expert panel/advisory committees and professional societies</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Expert member, National Scientific Advisory Board of the Long-term farming systems comparison (SysCom) project executed by FiBL, Frick, Switzerland at Bio Re India, Kasrawad, Khargone, MP, India (2020-continue) • Member Secretary, Research Advisory Committee, ICAR-IISR Indore (07.06.2020 to 06.06.2023) • Member, Institute Management Committee, ICAR-NBAIM, Mau (2023-2026) • Elected Fellow, Mycological Society of India, Chennai (2020). • Awarded Senior Scientist Award, Microbiologists Society, India • Expert member of project approval committee- MP Biotechnology Council, Bhopal, Department of Science and Technology, Govt of MP, Bhopal (2015-2018). • Elected as Secretary, Society for Soybean Research and Development, Indore (2020-2023 & 2023-2026) • Nominated as member, Board of studies in life sciences, Mandsour University, MP, India during 2016-2019). • Nominated as member, Board of studies, SAGE University, Indore, MP, India (2020-2023). • Associate Editor-Frontiers in Microbiology & European J soil Science (Wiley Publishers, UK), Member • Member of Editorial board-Indian Journal of Agricultural Research, ARPN Journal of Agricultural and Biological Sciences (aprnjournals.com), Journal of Agriculture and Crop Sciences.
Current project grants, salient achievements and technologies developed	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Development of Environmentally Friendly Controlled-Release P-fertilizer and its Evaluation with Plant Growth Promoting Microbes on Soybean Productivity and Soil Microbial Health; collaborative project with IISER, Bhopal and TERI New Delhi (2022-2025); Funded by DBT, Govt of India 2. ICAR funded project-AMAAS Network subproject- Biopolymer coating of soybean seeds with microbial consortia for improved productivity of soybean and soil health (2023-2026); Funded by AMAAS Network project ICAR-NBAIM, Mau. 3. Agri-Business Incubator-incubation of start-ups and entrepreneurs involved in production of microbial biofertilizers, soy food processing and seed business sectors (Feb 2020 onwards; Funded by ICAR HQ) 4. Interaction effect of phytohormones and AMF for enhanced nodulation, growth, yield of soybean with improved AMF symbiosis in the rhizosphere under Institute funded IRC, ICAR-

	<p>IISR, Indore (2020-ongoing)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The AM fungal strain <i>Rhizophagus irregularis</i> was identified as the predominant species and developed technology for its mass production and commercialized to M/s Biome technologies through Agrinnovate India (Current Microbiology NAAS 8.34) • Characterized 15 PGPR strains (N-fixing rhizobia, zinc, and P-solubilizing strains), acquired NCBI gene sequences, and cultures deposited to microbial repositories. • Executed 04 externally funded projects (DBT, DST, NBAIM-AMAAS network project) through which identified potential moisture stress tolerant rhizobial strains; <i>B. daqingense</i> as a novel strain reported for the first time from Indian soybean. • Developed a method for higher recovery of glomalin (AM fungi-mediated soil protein) from the soil for the assessment of soil carbon and heavy metal sequestration (JHM, ScTE, EnRes, EJSB; NAAS 20.22, 16.75; 14.43, 9.32 resp). • Through DBT-CREST postdoc fellowship (USDA, USA), established FAME facility for characterizing microbes and phospholipid fatty acids analysis in soil for soil microbial health assessment (EnRes, ASE, NAAS 14.43; 11.50). • As PI-Microbiology-AICRPS contributed to the identification of microbial consortia (AM fungi and bacteria) as POP and notification of three soybean varieties (<u>NRC 130, NRC 136, and NRC 128</u>). • As In-charge-ITMU (Since 2014), executed MOUs/commercialized 13 institute technologies to Industries. • Set up ABI center at IISR, Indore, and created hand holdings of Agri-startups (12) for manufacturing and popularizing microbial biofertilizers and soy food products. • Institute building activities and resource generation: as chairman-works committee, executed works of worth more than Rs 300 lakhs through CPWD; as chairman-consultancy processing cell executed contract research trials of worth more than 200 lakhs; as PI mobilized more than Rs 200 lakhs funds through external funding agencies (DST, DBT, ICAR). • Coordination and formulation of programmes: Incharge crop protection division (microbiology, plant pathology and entomology sections), ITMU, and ABI Centre. Formulated collaborative programme and developed projects/linkages with NBRI, Lucknow, IISER, Bhopal, IIT-Guwahati, etc., and undertaken joint research projects on soil-plant health management aspects of soybean. • Organized/conducted a short-term training on basic techniques of AM fungi for biofertilizer industry production staff from June 14-17, 2011 at DSR, Indore. • Organized two research industry-interface meets on “opportunities for Agri-Startups and entrepreneurs in soy food processing, value addition and soybean production technologies during March 2021 and Feb 2024.
Important Publications	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Chourasiya D, Ramesh A, Maheshwari HS, Anil Prakash, Drijber R, and Sharma MP (2024) Mass production of arbuscular mycorrhizal fungi on the sorghum plants inoculated with <i>Burkholderia arboris</i> using soybean mill waste and vermicompost-amended soil-sand substrate. Current Microbiology 81:129; https://doi.org/10.1007/s00284-024-03662-4 2. Jaiswal S, Bhatt J, Rajput L, Maheshwari H, Vennampally N, Kumar S, Pandey V & Sharma, MP (2023). Soybean Bacterial Endophytes <i>Bacillus subtilis</i> (EB-1) and <i>Bacillus amyloliquefaciens</i> (EB-2) against anthracnose survival in leaf and soil. Biological Forum-An International Journal 15(10): 1305-1309. 3. Khalili A, Khalofah A, Ramesh A, Sharma MP (2024) Temporal synchronization of nitrogen and sulfur fertilization: Impacts on nutrient uptake, use efficiency, productivity, and relationships with other micronutrients in soybean. Agronomy 2024, 14, 570. https://

	<p>doi.org/10.3390/agronomy14030570.</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 4. Khalili A, Ramesh A, Sharma MP (2023) Effect of nitrogen and sulfur applications on growth, chlorophyll content and yield of soybean (<i>Glycine max</i> L.) Merrill. E-Planet, 21: 29–34. 5. Bhattacharjya S, Ghosh V, Sahu A, Agnihotri R, Pal N, Sharma P, Manna MC, Sharma MP, and Singh AB (2024) Utilizing soil metabolomics to investigate the untapped metabolic potential of soil microbial communities and their role in driving soil ecosystem processes: A review. Applied Soil Ecology, Vol. 195, 105238, https://doi.org/10.1016/j.apsoil.2023.105238. 6. Laad P, Patel P, Guruprasad KN, Sharma MP and Kataria S, Brestic C (2023) Effect of UV exclusion and AMF inoculation on photosynthetic parameters of <i>Glycine max</i>. DOI Photosynthetica 61 (Special Issue): 236-243; Doi: https://10.32615/ps.2023.014 7. Bharti A, Maheshwari HS, Garg S, Anwar K, Pareek A, Satpute G, Prakash A and Sharma MP (2023) Exploring potential soybean bradyrhizobia from high trehalose-accumulating soybean genotypes for improved symbiotic effectiveness in soybean. International Microbiology 26: 973–987. doi:10.1007/s10123-023-00351-3. 8. Shanmugaiah V, Gauba A, Hari SK, Ram Prasad, Ramamoorthy V and Sharma MP (2023) Effect of silicon micronutrient on plant's cellular signaling cascades in stimulating plant growth by mitigating the environmental stressors. Plant Growth Regulation. 100: 391-408 https://doi.org/10.1007/s10725-023-00982-6. 9. Suresh P, Rekha M, Gomathinayagam S, Ramamoorthy V, Sharma MP, Sakthivel P, Sekar K, Valan Arasu M, Shanmugaiah V (2022). Characterization and Assessment of 2, 4-Diacetylphloroglucinol (DAPG)-Producing <i>Pseudomonas fluorescens</i> VSMKU3054 for the Management of Tomato Bacterial Wilt Caused by <i>Ralstonia solanacearum</i>. <i>Microorganisms</i>. 10 (8):1508. https://doi.org/10.3390/microorganisms10081508. 10. Agnihotri R, Gujre N, Mitra S and Sharma MP (2022). Decoding the PLFA profiling of microbial community structure in soils contaminated with municipal solid wastes. Environmental Research 219:114993doi: https://doi.org/10.1016/j.envres.2022.114993 (Press) 11. Agnihotri R, Sharma MP, Bucking H, Dames J and Bagyaraj DJ (2022). Methods for assessing the quality of AM fungal bio-fertilizer: Retrospect and future directions. <u>World Journal of Microbiology and Biotechnology</u> 38(6):97 DOI: 10.1007/s11274-022-03288-3 12. Neha, Bhardwaj Y, Sharma MP, Pandey J and Dubey SK (2022) Response of crop types and farming practices on soil microbial biomass and community structure in tropical agro-ecosystem by lipid biomarkers. J Soil Science & Plant Nutrition. 22, 1618–1631 https://doi.org/10.1007/s42729-022-00758-3. 13. Mathur S, Agnihotri R, Sharma MP, Reddy VR, and Jajoo A (2021). Effect of High-Temperature Stress on Plant Physiological Traits and Mycorrhizal Symbiosis in Maize Plants. J. Fungi 2021, 7, 867. https://doi.org/10.3390/jof7100867 14. Agnihotri R, Sharma MP, Prakash A, Ramesh A, Bhattacharjya S, Patra AK, Manna MC, Kurganova I, Kuzyakov Y (2021). Glycoproteins of arbuscular mycorrhiza for soil carbon sequestration: Review of mechanisms and controls. Sci Total Environ. Vol 806 (2), 150571 doi: 10.1016/j.scitotenv.2021.150571.
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	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 15. Gujre N, Mitra S, Agnihotri R, Sharma MP, Gupta D (2021). Novel agrotechnological intervention for soil amendment through areca nut husk biochar in conjunction with vetiver grass. <i>Chemosphere</i>. doi: 10.1016/j.chemosphere.2021.132443. 16. Agnihotri R, Pandey A, Bharti A, Chourasiya D, Maheshwari HS, Ramesh A, Billore SD and Sharma MP (2021). Soybean processing mill waste plus vermicompost enhances arbuscular mycorrhizal fungus inoculum production. <i>Current Microbiology</i>. 78 (7): 2595-2607; 10.1007/s00284-021-02532-7 17. Anand V, Kashyap M, Sharma MP, Bala K (2021). Impact of hydrogen peroxide on microalgae cultivated in varying salt-nitrate-phosphate conditions. <i>J of Environment Chemical Engineering</i>. 9(9):105814; https://doi.org/10.1016/j.jece.2021.105814 18. Gujre N, Agnihotri R, Rangan L, Sharma MP, Mitra S (2021) Deciphering the dynamics of glomalin and heavy metals in soils contaminated with hazardous municipal solid wastes. <i>J. of Hazardous Materials</i>; DOI: 10.1016/j.jhazmat.2021.125869. 19. Chourasiya D, Gupta MM, Sahni S, Oehl F, Agnihotri R, Buade R, Maheshwari HS, Prakash A and Sharma MP (2021). Unraveling the AM fungal community for understanding its ecosystem resilience to changed climate in agro-ecosystems. <i>Symbiosis</i> 84: 295–310. https://doi.org/10.1007/s13199-021-00761-9. 20. Agnihotri, R., Bharti, A., Ramesh, A., Prakash, A., Sharma, M.P. (2021). Glomalin related protein and C16:1ω5 PLFA associated with AM fungi as potential signatures for assessing the soil C sequestration under contrasting soil management practices. <i>European. J. Soil Biology</i> 103: 103286. https://doi.org/10.1016/j.ejsobi.2021.103286 (Press). 21. Sharma MP (2021) Appraisal of native AM fungi in improving the plant productivity, soil health and sequestering soil carbon in agro-ecosystems. <i>Kavaka</i> 56:13-21. doi: 10.36460/Kavaka/56/2021/13-21. 22. Buade R, Chourasiya D, Prakash A and Sharma MP (2020). Changes in arbuscular mycorrhizal fungal community structure in soybean rhizosphere soil assessed at different growth stages of soybean. <i>Agric Res</i> 10: 32–43 (2021). https://doi.org/10.1007/s40003-020-00481-4 23. Sharma MP, Grover M, Chourasiya D, Bharti A, Agnihotri R, Maheshwari HS, Pareek A, Buyer JS, Sharma SK, Schütz L, Mathimaran N, Singla-Pareek SL, Grossman JS and Bagyaraj DJ (2020) Deciphering the role of trehalose in tripartite symbiosis among rhizobia, arbuscular mycorrhizal fungi and legumes for enhancing abiotic stress tolerance in crop plants (Review). <i>Front. Microbiol.</i> 11:509919. doi: 10.3389/fmicb.2020.509919. 24. Meena RS, Kumar S, Datta R, Lal R, Vijayakumar V, Brtnicky M, Sharma MP, Yadav GS, Jhariya MK, Jangir C, Pathan S, Dokulilova T, Pecina V and Marfo TD (2020) Impact of Agrochemicals on Soil Microbiota and Management: A Review. <i>Land</i>, 9: 34, pages 1-22; doi:10.3390/land9020034 25. Manna MC, Sahu A, De N, Thakur JK, Mandal A, Bhattacharjya S, Ghosh A, Rahman MM, Naidu R, Singh UB, Dakhli R, Sharma MP and Misra S (2020) Novel bio-filtration method for the removal of heavy metals from municipal solid waste. <i>Environmental Technology Innovation</i>, 17, 100619 https://doi.org/10.1016/j.eti.2020.100619. 26. Karmegham N, Vellasamy S, Natesan B, Sharma MP, Al Farraj DA, Elshikh MS. Characterization of antifungal metabolite phenazine from rice rhizosphere fluorescent pseudomonads (FPs) and their effect on sheath blight of rice. <i>Saudi J Biol Sci.</i> 27:3313-3326. doi: 10.1016/j.sjbs.2020.10.007. 27. Padhana K, Bhattacharjya S, Sahu A, Manna MC, Sharma MP, Singh M, Wanjari RH, Sharma RP, Sharma GK, Patra AK (2020) Soil N transformation as modulated by soil microbes in a 44 years long term fertilizer experiment in a sub-humid to humid Alfisol. <i>Applied Soil Ecology</i> Vol. 145, 103335. DOI: 10.1016/j.apsoil.2019.09.005
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30. Mathimaran N, Sharma MP, Mohan Raju and Bagyaraj DJ (2017) Arbuscular mycorrhizal symbiosis and drought tolerance in crop plants. *Mycosphere* 8: 361–376.
31. Nisar A. Bhat, Amritbir Riar, Aketi Ramesh, Sanjeeda Iqbal, Mahaveer P. Sharma, Sanjay K. Sharma and Gurbir S. Bhullar (2017) Soil biological activity contributing to phosphorus availability in Vertisols under long-term organic and conventional agricultural management. *Frontiers in Plant Science* Volume 8 No. 1523 doi: 10.3389/fpls.2017.01523.
32. Khande R, Sharma SK, Ramesh A and Sharma MP (2017) Zinc solubilizing *Bacillus* strains that modulate growth, yield and zinc biofortification of soybean and wheat. *Rhizosphere* 4: 126–138
33. Sharma SK, Gupta AK, Shukla AK, Ees Ahmad, Sharma MP and Ramesh A (2016) Microbial Conservation Strategies and Methodologies: Status and Challenges. *Indian J. Plant Genetic Resources* 29(3): 340-342; DOI 10.5958/0976-926.2016.00062.0
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35. DJ Bagyaraj, Sharma , MP and Maiti D (2015) Phosphorus nutrition of crops through arbuscular mycorrhizal fungi *Current Sci.* Vol 108 (7): 1288-1293
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- and crop sequences on arbuscular mycorrhizal symbiosis and soil enzyme activities in soybean (*Glycine max* L. Merrill) rhizosphere. Indian J. Agricultural Sciences 82: 25-30.
43. Sushil K. Sharma, **Mahaveer P. Sharma**, A. Ramesh and OP Joshi (2012) Characterization of Zinc-Solubilizing *Bacillus* isolates and their Potential to Influence Zinc Assimilation in Soybean Seeds. Journal of Microbiology and Biotechnology 22: 352-359.
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 45. Mahaveer P Sharma, A.N. Sharma and S. S. Hussaini (2011) Entomopathogenic Nematodes a Potential Microbial Biopesticide: Mass Production and Commercialization Status-A Mini Review. Archives of Phytopathology and Plant Protection 44 (9):855-870.
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	<p>inoculation with indigenous AM fungi in a semi-arid alfisol achieved with different concentrations of available soil P. <i>Microbiological Research</i> 154: 349-354.</p> <p>59. Anupama Gaur, Mahaveer P Sharma, Alok Adholeya and S P Chauhan (1998). Variation in the spore density and percentage of root length colonized by arbuscular mycorrhizal fungi at rehabilitated waterlogged sites. <i>Journal of Tropical Forest Science</i> 10 (4): 542-551.</p> <p>60. Mahaveer P Sharma, Atimanav Gaur, Naveen P Bhatia and Alok Adholeya (1996). Mycorrhizal dependency of <i>Acacia nilotica</i> var. <i>cupriciformis</i> to indigenous vesicular arbuscular mycorrhizal consortium in a wasteland soil. <i>Mycorrhiza</i> 6: 441-446.</p> <p>61. Mahaveer P Sharma, S Bhargava, M K Verma and Alok Adholeya (1995), Comparative potentiality of vesicular-arbuscular mycorrhizal fungus, <i>Glomus fasciculatum</i> against root-knot nematode, <i>Meloidogyne incognita</i> on tomato. <i>Indian J Nematology</i> 25(1): 4-6.</p> <p>62. Mahaveer P Sharma, S Bhargava, MK Verma and Alok Adholeya (1994). Interaction between the endomycorrhizal fungus <i>Glomus fasciculatum</i> and the root-knot nematode, <i>Meloidogyne incognita</i> on tomato. <i>Indian J Nematology</i> 24 (2): 34-39.</p>
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