

PLENARY SPEAKER

Dr. Bhimanagouda (Bhimu) Patil

Texas A&M University

“Climate resilience and its influence on bioactive compounds in fruits and vegetables: Implications for health and gut microbiota”



Dr. Bhimu Patil, a Regents Professor and Inaugural Leonard Pike University Professor at Texas A&M University, is renowned for his influential work as Director of the Vegetable and Fruit Improvement Center and USDA National Center of Excellence for Melons. Additionally, he holds the esteemed position of Love Tito's Endowed Professor at Texas A&M University. With over 250 peer-reviewed publications, Dr. Patil's research is at the forefront of understanding the comprehensive impacts of fruits and vegetables on human health.

His pioneering work spans the integration of plant breeding, agronomic practices, and harvesting methods, emphasizing the crucial role of quality, food safety, and consumption in enhancing health benefits. Dr. Patil has significantly advanced the 'Foods for Health' concept, integrating diverse methodologies to improve the overall quality and health benefits of fruits and vegetables.

Dr. Patil's leadership has been instrumental in securing substantial funding, including \$34.8 million and \$20.6 million grants for his program, with notable projects related to melons and tomatoes under USDA-SCRI-CAPS. He has delivered over 120 invited presentations globally, including 26 keynote addresses at prestigious conferences in countries such as Australia, Brazil, China, Canada, and many others.

Throughout his distinguished career, Dr. Patil has received 19 prestigious awards, including six "Fellow" recognitions from professional societies such as the American Chemical Society and the American Society for Horticultural Sciences. He co-founded the International Symposium on Fruit and Vegetable Health in 2005 and has chaired or co-chaired 25 symposia, reflecting his leadership and commitment to advancing horticultural science.

Dr. Patil's work has been extensively featured in 135 articles and news media outlets, including BBC, The New York Times, Wall Street Journal, and NPR, cementing his reputation as a leading authority in the field. His contributions continue to drive innovation and excellence in both the scientific community and the produce industry, promoting a healthier future through enhanced understanding and utilization of fruits and vegetables.