

**Dr. Lakshmi Narayana R. Vemireddy (VLN Reddy)**

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Dr. VLN Reddy obtained M.Sc. (Ag) from Genetics and Plant breeding, S.V. Agricultural College, ANGRAU, Tirupati in 2000 and Ph.D from Centre for DNA Fingerprinting and Diagnostics (CDFD), Hyderabad (Registered in University of Hyderabad) in 2008. He did his Post Doctoral Fellow from Oklahoma State University, Stillwater, USA fin 2014 under “Raman Post Doctoral Fellowship” sponsored by the University Grants Commission(UGC), New Delhi. He has more than a decade of proven research experience in rice molecular genetics and breeding. Also, he is well acquainted with advanced molecular biology techniques as evident from his publications in reputed international journals. He was involved in development of a capillary electrophoresis-based microsatellite DNA profiling protocol, which facilitates quick and accurate detection and quantification of adulteration in basmati rice thereby help expand and sustain our export opportunities. He was involved in identification of several QTLs of promise pertaining to yield and its components from wild species and primitive cultivars of rice. He also identified and mapped QTLs governing important quality traits of Basmati rice and dissected a major QTL governing the grain size. He was involved in molecular mapping of QTLs for drought and water use efficiency related traits. Recently, he also identified and mapped alternate dwarfing gene (*asd1*) to widely used Dee-Gee-Woo-Gen allele of *sd1* gene in rice. He has also identified evenly distributed hypervariable rice microsatellite markers that can be useful in the background selection of marker-assisted breeding in rice. Further, he demonstrated that the molecular genetic diversity of major Indian rice cultivars over the decadal periods is increasing. He has also developed a DNA fingerprints for the major Indian rice cultivars.