

Asia Pacific Clinical Nutrition Society 1999 Award

KALIDAS SHETTY BS, MS, PhD (Idaho)

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Dr Shetty's work as a plant biologist, molecular biologist and microbiologist has opened new opportunities for the use and application of plant derived foods to improve human health.

He was born in Jayapura, near Bangalore in the Indian state of Karnataka and took his first degree in Agricultural Science. He then moved to the University of Idaho, USA in 1984 to undertake an MS and then a PhD in the field of Microbiology. He was awarded the Japanese government Science and Technology post-doctoral fellowship in 1990 to pursue research in the areas of Plant Cell and Molecular Biology at the National Institute of Agrobiological Resources in Tsukuba Science City. In 1992, Dr Shetty continued post-doctoral studies in plant biology at the University of Guelph in Ontario, Canada. He moved to the University of Massachusetts as an Assistant Professor in 1993. His scientific creativity has flourished at the University of Massachusetts in Amherst where he has identified regulatory elements of plant secondary metabolism whose manipulation can allow food plants to be high-yielding of healthful phytochemicals and, also, to grow in contaminated environments to phyto-remediate them.

All-in-all, he has developed ecologically sensitive approaches to food plant production while at the same time improving human health.

A deep understanding of Asian cultures and a well-developed Asian value system inform his research. He employs a collaborative, multidisciplinary approach to his work, reflected in an outstanding course on World Food Habits which he teaches at the University of Massachusetts, along with basic and applied food sciences.

The amalgam of Dr Shetty's Indian ancestry and his western science are generating a new respect for Asian food cultures and their potential for human health universally.

The Asia Pacific Clinical Nutrition Society is proud to bestow its 1999 Award on Kalidas Shetty.