

January 2014

Press Release



[Dr. Anil K. Rajvanshi](#), the Director of [Nimbkar Agricultural Research Institute \(NARI\)](#) at Phaltan, Maharashtra has been selected to receive the Distinguished Alumnus Award (DAA) of University of Florida (UF), U.S.A. UF is one of the leading universities of America and is included in the top 15 public universities of U.S.

DAA is the highest honor that University of Florida can bestow on its alumni. Dr. Anil Rajvanshi is the first Indian to receive this award and hence it is a great honor not only for him but for all Indians. Dr. Rajvanshi has been given this award for his pioneering work in rural development done at NARI since 1981 when he came back from the U.S.

Dr. Rajvanshi, who is a mechanical engineering graduate of IIT Kanpur (1972), did his Ph.D. in the same subject from University of Florida in 1979 and then taught there for 2.5 years before returning to India in late 1981.

In the past Dr. Rajvanshi has received numerous national and international awards for his work on rural development which includes [Jamnalal Bajaj Award](#) from Dr. Manmohan Singh; [FICCI Platinum Jubilee Award](#) from the Prime Minister Shri Atal Behari Vajpayee; [Energy Globe Award](#) at Stockholm from HRH Princess Victoria, [US based Solar Hall of Fame](#) among others.

The DAA will be given to Dr. Rajvanshi when he will be felicitated by the President of UF, Dr. Bernard Machen, at the commencement convocation on 3rd May 2014 in Gainesville, Florida, U.S.A.

In announcing the award, Dr. Machen in his letter wrote “It is in recognition of the honor and prestige you have brought your alma mater through your accomplishments and services that we honor you. In accepting this award, you will join an elite group of outstanding university alumni who are excellent examples of what our students should strive to become as they step off campus and into the world as graduates”.

In getting DAA, Dr. Rajvanshi joins a select band of distinguished awardees which include Florida governors, U.S. Senators, Presidents of universities, well-known scientists, and inventors including U.S. Presidential Medal winners, among others.

On receiving the news of this award Dr. Rajvanshi said that not only does this award honor him but also thousands of Indian students who have studied at UF and therefore will provide inspiration to future students who may go to study in the U.S.

He said that this award is also a testimony to the fact that the rural work done in India is recognized by one of the top 15 public universities of the U.S. This should provide inspiration, he said, to all the Indian students going to the U.S. to come back and help their country and good work will be recognized eventually.

News published in [Economic Times](#) and Embassy of India, Washington [Newsletter](#).

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