



Visitors Award 2018 for the Best Technology

The President of India Sh. Ramnath Kovind Ji in a ceremony held on 2nd May 2018 at The President House, New Delhi presented the Visitor's Award for Technology Development, 2018 to Prof Ashwani Pareek, Jawaharlal Nehru University, New Delhi for developing **Stress Tolerant Rice of the Next Generation (STRONG)** that has the potential to enhance the income of rice farmers. By 2050, the world will have 9 billion people, 1.5 billion in India, where food security is threatened by environmental factors, especially scarcity or poor quality of irrigation water. Using the tools of genomics, a new "SMART-sensing" and "HIGH-yielding" rice has been developed especially for farmers with marginal lands. A protein responsible for sensing and responding to changes water status in soil has been used to achieve this target. When used in conjunction with "SMART-irrigation" this rice would prove highly profitable to the farmers. The technology has already been patented and transferred to an agri-industry for further testing and commercialization.

