Dr. Suryakant Gunjal

Director, Center for Internal Quality Assurance (CIQA) & former Director, School of Agricultural Sciences Yashwantrao Chavan Maharashtra Open University, Nashik - 422 222. India.

Phone: +91-0253-22 31 474, Cell: +91-982 235 0342 E-mail: Suryagun@hotmail.com

- 1. Dr. Suryakant Gunjal, M. Sc. (Agriculture) Ph.D. (Biotechnology) Director, Center for Internal Quality Assurance & Former Founder Director, School of Agricultural Sciences, Yashwantrao Chavan Maharashtra Open University, Nashik. (India) & former Visiting Scientist & Distance Education Specialist to ICRISAT, Hyderabad (India), Born on 01.06.1959 in farmers family in Pune district of India, Started his career as I.C.A.R. Senior Research Fellow in Agricultural Microbiology at Mahatma Phule Agricultural University, Rahuri in 1981 and subsequently scaling a glaring academic and professional progression and decorated as Founder Professor & Director to the School of Agricultural Sciences, YCMOU, Nashik since from 1992.He is an Expert in Institutional Assessment, Evaluation & Accreditation System in open & distance education.
- 2. During the last 36 years, He has served in various capacities in Mahatma Phule Agricultural University, Rahuri, Maharashtra State Department of Agriculture, Pune, International Crops Research Institutes for Semi Arid Tropics (ICRISAT), an alliance of Consultative Group on International Agricultural Research, Hyderabad and Yashwantrao Chavan Maharashtra Open University, Nashik, as Senior Research Fellow, Subject Matter Specialist, Assistant Professor, Associate Professor, Senior Scientist, Project Director, Planning Officer, Registrar, Founder Professor & Director, School of Agricultural Sciences, YCMOU, Nashik & founder Visiting Scientist & Distance Education Specialist, ICRISAT, Hyderabad.
- 3. He is a founder educationist in Multi-media distance education in Agriculture in India. He established more than 300 Self Help Groups of farmers and farm women for imparting informal training and education for Self Employment through Bio-Village Development Program in tribal area of Maharashtra in India. He has extensively traveled in South Asia, South East Asia & Oceania to promote distance education for livelihood opportunities in rural areas. He was a first Visiting Scientist & Distance Education Specialist to Consultative Group on International Agricultural Research (CGIAR) promoted Global Initiatives for Open and Distance Education in Agriculture in third world countries. He has developed and coordinated various academic programs in Organic Agriculture with Partner universities in South Asia and South East Asia.
- 4. He is Recipient of Senior Research Fellowship from I.C.A.R., New Delhi, Fellowship from International Society for Tropical Crops Research & Development & Recipient of Best Community Teacher Award: 2000. He is nominated as Commonwealth of Learning Visiting Professor & Research Fellow to University of Putra, Malaysia, University of Mauritius, Charles Stuart University, Australia, The Open Polytechnic of New Zealand, Sukothai Thammatirath Open University, Bangkok, and The Open University of Philippines Open University, Los Banos for Promotion of Open & Distance Education in Agriculture. Senior Academic Consultant, National Institute for Open Schooling (NIOS), New Delhi & Maharashtra Knowledge Corporation Ltd. Pune India. Visiting Scientist & Distance Education Specialist to the Global Open Food & Agriculture University Initiatives at ICRISAT, Hyderabad.
- 5. He is Recognized Research Guide for M. Sc. & Ph. D. programs in Agricultural Microbiology for Mahatma Phule Agricultural University, Rahuri, in Environment Sciences for Bharati Vidyapeeth Deemed University, Pune and in Agricultural Development for YCMOU, Nashik. He has guided 3 M.Sc. & 6 Ph.D. Research Scholars, Published 12 Research Papers in Peer Reviewed Research Journals, written more than 30 Scientific Articles and extension education folders, Delivered more than 100 All India Radio talks and Television Programs, Attended more than 20 National and International Seminars and Conferences, Visited Australia, Canada, New Zealand, Singapore, Malaysia, Mauritius, Thailand, Sri-Lanka & Philippines in the capacity of Visiting Professor & Distance Education Specialist. Designed and Developed Technology Mediated Corporate Model of Distance Education in Agriculture and outreached to more than 3,36,000 Distance Learners in Agricultural Sciences during the last 30 years in India.