CHIDANAND S. ULLAGADDI, M.Sc.

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Authorized to work in the U.S(currently under J1 visa)

SUMMARY

A result-oriented professional with extensive experience in managing **plant molecular breeding programs, gene editing, tissue culture, high-throughput phenotyping, and agronomic trials**. I am skilled in **data analysis, experimental designs, and project management**. Strong leadership experience in managing research teams and large-scale field trials.

RESEARCH EXPERIENCE

University of Nebraska-Lincoln, Schnable Lab | Lincoln, NE

Research Technologist-I | November 2022 – Present

- Established a plant transformation and gene editing facility for **Corn and Sorghum**, successfully performing **10 gene edits in corn for various traits**.
- Conduct and coordinate large-scale **corn and sorghum trials** across six locations in Iowa and Nebraska.
- Led collaborations with engineering teams for **ground and aerial high-throughput phenotyping** using robotic platforms.
- Supervised undergraduate researchers, assigning tasks and mentoring them professionally.
- Managed **import/export of genetic stocks** with USDA and international partners.
- Performed **large-scale data collection, annotation, quality control, and visualization using Python & R(beginner)**.

ITC Ltd., Agri Sciences Division | Bangalore, India

Assistant Scientist – Plant Breeding | January 2011 – November 2022

- **Experienced in industrial R&D for 11 years**, specializing in **plant breeding, molecular technology, and crop improvement**.
- Developed and deployed **tobacco hybrid "1353" for commercial cultivation, with improved yield and quality, currently cultivating 100% FCV growing area.**
- Established commercial seed production capabilities.
- **Developed backcross inbred lines, RILs, and doubled haploids** using both conventional and marker-assisted selection.
- Conducted **large-scale metabolic characterization** of tobacco trichomes in collaboration with NCSU to improve flavor.
- Led **>500 ha agronomic trials** for commercial hybrid testing and proof-of-concept evaluations.
- Supervised a team of 20, coordinating field trials across multiple states of India.
- Worked on additional crops like **wheat, potato, quinoa, and amaranth**.

EDUCATION

University of Agricultural Sciences | Bangalore, India

M.Sc. (Agriculture) in Plant Biotechnology | 2010
Thesis: **Development of transgenic Tomato against fungal disease resistance**

University of Agricultural Sciences | Dharwad, India

B.Sc. (Agriculture) | 2008
Academic excellence recognition for outstanding performance in Agronomy

SELECTED PUBLICATIONS

1. **JM Davis, LM Coffey, J Turkus, L López-Corona, K Linders, C Ullagaddi**, Assessing the impact of yield plasticity on hybrid performance in maize. bioRxiv, 2025.01. 21.634104
2. **Zheng, R., Jia, Y., Ullagaddi, Chidanand., et al.** (2024). Optimizing feature selection with gradient boosting machines in PLS regression for predicting moisture and protein in corn kernels via NIR spectroscopy. *Food Chemistry* (140062).
3. **Quach, T., Guo, M., Ullagaddi, Chidanand., et al.** (2024). Promoter bashing of *Sorghum bicolor* gene models functionally annotated as PEPCK and AlaAT. (*In process of publication*).
4. **Manoharlal, R., Saiprasad, G.V.S., Ullagaddi, Chidanand., et al.** (2017). Gibberellin A3 as an epigenetic determinant of global DNA hypomethylation in tobacco. *Biologia Plantarum*.
5. **Priya, B.N.V., Ullagaddi, Chidanand., et al.** (2019). Development of KASP marker for cytoplasmic male sterility in *Nicotiana tabacum*.
6. **Patent: Priya, B.N.V., Ullagaddi, Chidanand., et al.** (Patent no: 537/KOL/2015). Influence of 2,4-D on early flowering and seed production in tobacco.

Google Scholar: https://scholar.google.com/citations?hl=en&user=O_LrPogAAAAJ

SKILLS

- **Plant Biotechnology & Genetics:**
  Gene editing (CRISPR/Cas9), Plant Tissue Culture, Molecular biology
- **Field Research & Breeding:**
  Commercial Hybrid Development, commercial Seed Production, Multi-location Trials (MLTs), Agronomic Trait Evaluation
- **Data Science & Bioinformatics:**
  Beginner in Python & R (Data Analysis & Visualization), Marker-Assisted Selection (MAS), Genotyping
- **High-throughput phenotyping:**
  UAV & Ground-Based Robotics, Image Analysis, Remote Sensing
- **Leadership & Collaboration:**
  Team Management, Project Coordination, Industry-Academic Partnerships

REFERENCES

Dr. James C. Schnable
Charles O. Gardner Professor, Dept. of Agronomy & Horticulture

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