

## Dr. Raghavendra Aminedi won Best Poster Award at the National Symposium on ‘Trends in Plant Biotechnology and Agriculture 2020’

By Dr Bilqeesa Bhat

Dr. Raghavendra Aminedi from Dr. Divya Chandran’s Laboratory of Plant-Microbe Interactions wins Best Poster Award at the National Symposium on Trends in Plant Biotechnology and Agriculture 2020 for his work specifically targeting and suppressing pea powdery mildew disease. The pea powdery mildew is a serious fungal disease that contributes to significant annual crop yield losses of up to 25-50%.



Dr. Raghavendra Aminedi receiving the award

To understand how the pathogen causes disease, Young Investigator Dr. Aminedi team working with Dr. Divya Chandran used genomics and RNA interference (RNAi)-based approaches to identify key virulence molecules in the pea powdery mildew pathogen.

The team found that suppression of certain pathogen RNA molecule expression led to the reduction in growth and infectivity of the pathogen. This suggests that improved resistance to the

powdery mildew may be achieved through stable suppression of these RNA molecules in plants exposed to the pathogen.

Dr. Aminedi has successfully developed a high throughput, tissue culture-free, genetic transformation system in pea. He envisages that this system can be utilized for the stable expression of RNAi molecules that specifically target and suppress pea powdery mildew pathogenicity determinants.

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