Stanford



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BIO

Rajnish Khanna, M.Sc., Ph.D., is a plant molecular biologist and photobiologist whose research spans plant signaling, photomorphogenesis, plant-microbe interactions, crop biology, and translational plant science. He is a Visiting Scientist in the Department of Biology at Stanford University.

Khanna received his Ph.D. in Biological Sciences (Plant Molecular Biology) from Purdue University. His research career has included work at the University of California, Berkeley; Mendel Biotechnology; and the Carnegie Institution for Science, where he was a Carnegie Fellow and later Senior Investigator. His research has examined light-regulated plant development, phytochrome signaling, crop productivity, plant-microbe interactions, and the translation of fundamental plant biology to agricultural applications.

Khanna is also Founder and CEO of i-Cultiver, Inc., an agricultural research company that connects fundamental plant science with product development and applied agricultural research. He teaches biology and biotechnology as adjunct faculty at Contra Costa College and is Co-Founder and Executive Director of Urban Green Project, a nonprofit focused on science education, sustainable food systems, and community engagement.

His broader scientific interests include the biological foundations of perception and consciousness and the application of photobiology to questions about how living systems perceive and respond to their environment. He is also the host of TerreScience, a science conversation series exploring biology, agriculture, health, consciousness, and the relationship between human and planetary health.