

## **BALWINDER SINGH SIDHU**

### **Commissioner Agriculture-cum-Chief Conservator of Soils, Government of Punjab**

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### **PERSONAL DETAILS**

DATE OF BIRTH : 13.04.1957  
SEX : Male  
MARITAL STATUS : Married  
NATIONALITY : Indian  
PAY SCALE : Rs.37000-67000+10000 Grade Pay

### **ACADEMIC QUALIFICATIONS**

- Masters in Economics, Punjabi University, Patiala (2009).
- Master of Engineering (Water Use Management) from University of Roorkee, Roorkee in 1992 with 1<sup>st</sup> class 1<sup>st</sup> and Hons. (84.7%) and University Medal.
- B. Tech. (Agri. Engg.) from Punjab Agricultural University, Ludhiana in 1977, 1<sup>st</sup> class OGPA 3.53 on 4.00 basis (77%), University Merit Scholarship

## **PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE**

- As a member of Punjab Agricultural Service (PAS), held key positions at various levels of Government from policy, planning, implementation and management of agricultural development in the State from 1987-2015. Details of posts held so far are given in attached statement.
- Core experience in policy formulation and planning and implementation of development programmes for efficient use agricultural inputs, improving farmers income and propagation of conservation agriculture with an objective of improving the sustainability of State's Agriculture and livelihoods in rural areas.
- Contributed in preparation of National policies and programmes for agricultural extension as a Member of Sub-group for preparation of 12<sup>th</sup> Five Year Plan.

## **PROMINENT ACHIEVEMENTS**

- Successful implementation and monitoring of Flagship Agriculture development programmes viz. Rashtriya Krishi Vikas Yojna, National Food Security Mission etc. The State produced a record 29.5 million MT of foodgrains during 2013-14 and has been conferred **Krishi Karman Award-2014** for outstanding contribution in production of foodgrains.
- The **1<sup>st</sup> Krishi Karman Award** was also conferred on Punjab in 2010-11 for **highest ever food-grain production** of 278.67 LMT.
- Worked as Member-Secretary of the Committee which formulated State Agricultural Policy-2013 with a thrust on efficient management of natural resources and improving the viability of farming.
- Prepared the **State Agricultural Diversification Plan** to shift an area of 1.2 million hectares from paddy to other crops and

the road map for creation of related marketing and processing infrastructure for development of crop and livestock sector.

- To enable the farmers to realize better prices for maize, drying facilities have been created in 8 maize markets.
- As Member-Secretary of the Committee formulated the Policy for providing relief in case of suicidal deaths of farmers and farm labourers due to debt in Punjab in 2014.
- For **conservation of irrigation water**, a programme for improving conveyance efficiency of irrigation by laying underground pipeline systems has been implemented and 51000 kms of pipeline has been laid both in canal and tubewell commands. Drip irrigation has been installed in more than 27000 hectares in the State during last 4 years.
- Successfully implemented the project of use of treated sullage water from Sewage Treatment Plants for irrigation covering about 600 ha.
- A new solar powered lift irrigation project is being implemented in Kandi Canal command in Hoshiarpur district for providing assured irrigation through micro irrigation system to 668 ha.
- Successfully implemented the Buffalo Breed Development Programme to improve the productivity of buffalos and thereby the income of the farmers. As a result the average productivity of buffalos in area has improved by 2.4 liters per day per animal and a farmer having 2 buffalos, likely to get an additional income of Rs.150 per day through breed improvement.
- Modernization of Milk Plants at Ludhiana and Verka (Amritsar) for improving the capacity and efficiency of milk processing and handled a record 1.8 million liters of milk per day, thereby saving the farmers from distress sale of milk during slump in market prices of milk products in 2012-13.

- Formulation and implementation of **Punjab Preservation of Sub-soil Water Act, 2009** to conserve the ground water resources of the State. An awareness campaign “Save Water Save Punjab” was launched to discourage the early transplanting of paddy in Kharif. As a result the rate of depletion of ground water level in the State has declined.
- To improve the application efficiency of irrigation water, a programme for **Precision land leveling** was started and about 3700 Laser Land Levelers were supplied on subsidy to farmers and their cooperatives. Consequently, about 10 lac ha of land have been leveled in the State by using these machines and on-farm water use and nutrient use efficiency has improved.
- In order to reduce the heavy capital expenditure in agricultural machinery and thereby reduce the cost of cultivation and to promote the adoption of new technologies, the department started a new programme of providing capital assistance @ 33% to set up the ‘**Agricultural Machinery Service Centers**’ by the Primary Agricultural Cooperative Societies and private entrepreneurs. 1702 such centres have been set-up out of which 1442 are by Primary Agricultural Cooperative Societies.
- A programme to **improve the seed replacement** ratio of various crops was initiated. The 95% of the area under cotton and maize is under hybrids. About 80,000 hectares are under hybrid rice. A programme to achieve 100% Seed Replacement in case of wheat in 3 years was launched in 2008-09 and was successfully completed.

### **PROFESSIONAL TRAINING**

- **Indian Institute of Management (IIM), Ahmadabad:** One week training in Public Private Partnerships (PPPs) in Rural Infrastructure from 24-06-2013 to 28-06-2013.
- **Institute of Rural Development, Anand:** Two week training course on Dairy Technology for non-dairy technologists during April, 2012.

- **International Water Management Institute, New Delhi and University of South Australia, Adelaide:** Three months training course on Groundwater Governance in Asia: Theory and Practice from 02-12-2007 to 23-03-2008.
- **Water Technology Center, PUSA Campus, New Delhi:** Laser Aided Precision Land Leveling System from 29-07-2002 to 31-07-2002.
- **National Institute of Agricultural Extension Management (MANAGE), Hyderabad:** New Dimensions of Extension management from 10-01-2000 to 13-01-2000.
- **Water and power Consultancy Services (India) Limited, New Delhi:** One week training programme on Management and Reclamation of Waterlogged, Saline and Alkaline Lands in Irrigation Commands from 08-03-1999 to 14-03-1999.
- **Punjab State Institute of Public Administration, Chandigarh:** One week training course on People's participation in Development from 05-12-1994 to 09-12-1994.
- **Central Ground Water Board, Ministry of Agriculture & Irrigation, Govt. of India:** Three months training course in Ground Water and Water Well Techniques in India from 06-11-1979 to 30-01-1980.

## **AWARDS, HONOURS AND MEMBERSHIPS**

### **AWARDS:**

- **Krishi Karman Award** for **2010-11** and **2013-14** by Ministry of Agriculture, Govt. of India for highest food-grain production.
- **Best Performance Award 2009** by Ministry of Agriculture, Govt. of India under NFSM-wheat for best performance in wheat production during 2008-09.
- National Productivity Award in Agriculture for '**Best Productivity Performance**' in **Agriculture Extension Services**' Sector by the National Productivity Council of India for the year 2004-05, 2005-06 and 2006-07.

- **ISAE Gold Medal** in 2008 by Indian Society of Agricultural Engineers for outstanding contribution in the field of Agricultural Engineering Extension.
- **State Award in 2006** by Govt. of Punjab for outstanding contribution in the field of agriculture.
- **Certificate of Recognition** by National Agricultural Technology Project (ICAR) and Rice Wheat Consortium for Indo-Gangetic Plains for continued excellent contribution in promoting Resource Conserving Technologies in Agriculture in Punjab (2003-04).
- **Commendation Medal Award** by ISAE for outstanding contribution in the field of Irrigation Extension (1999).

#### **APPRECIATIONS:**

- **Appreciation letter** by Mr. P.K. Basu, IAS, Secretary to Govt. of India, Department of Agriculture and Cooperation, for “**Highest ever production of food-grains and consistent high performance as a result of committed and responsive administration** ” (2011).
- **Appreciation letter** by Mr. T. Nanda Kumar, IAS, Chairman Committee on Optimization of Fertilizer Usage and former Secretary to Govt. of India, Department of Agriculture and Cooperation, for “**Excellent Production of Wheat and Rice along with high level of procurement in difficult agricultural seasons for the country on account of deficient rainfall**” (2010).
- Appreciation letter by Sh. S. Krishnan, IAS, Secretary to Govt. of India, Department of Fertilizers for “Systematic Management and distribution of fertilizers in the State during last 3-4 years” (30-04-2010).
- **Appreciation letter** by Dr. M. S. Swaminathan, Chairman, National Farmers Commission for “**outstanding work to improve the productivity, profitability and sustainability of Punjab Agriculture**” (2005).

## **MEMBERSHIP OF PROFESSIONAL INSTITUTIONS**

- Fellow, Indian Society of Agricultural Engineers
- Member, Institute of Engineers (India)
- Member, Indian Water Resources Society, Roorke,
- Member, Soil Conservation Society of India.

## **LANGUAGE AND COMPUTER SKILLS**

- Fluent : English, Hindi & Punjabi
- Computer Skills : Word Processing, Database and Spread Sheets.

## **OTHER INTERESTS**

- Reading, Writing, Sports/Games (weightlifting and volleyball)

## **RESEARCH PAPERS**

Authored more than 50 research papers/technical reports/ book chapters/Extension Bulletins/Popular articles (in Punjabi) on various agriculture related topics:

- Chandna Parvesh., Ladha J.K., Singh U.P., Punia M., Gupta R., **B.S Sidhu**. 2011. *Using remote sensing technologies to enhance resource conservation and agricultural productivity in underutilized lands of South Asia. Applied Geography, 32: 757-765*
- Sharma B.K., Ambali G.K., **B.S Sidhu**. 2011. *The Punjab Preservation of Sub Soil Water Act: Analysis of a Regulatory Mechanism for Saving Groundwater. Water Resources Research.*
- Chandna Parvesh, Milap Punia, JK Ladha, SK Sharma, **BS Sidhu** and B Gangwar 2011. *Assessing the impact of change in climate and soil on long term yield trends of rice-rice system in India. Field Crop Research.*
- Chandna Parvesh, Milap Punia, JK Ladha, SK SharmA, B Gangwar, A. Nelson and **BS Sidhu** 2011. *Assessing the impact*

*of change in climate and soil on long term yield trends of rice-wheat system in India. Field Crop Research.*

- Shrestha Shreemat, Parvesh Chandna, **BS Sidhu.**, A.K. Gosain, Sandhya Rao, Rabi Rasaily and Raj Gupta. 2005. *Use of Hydrological Modeling for Targeting Resource Conserving Technologies*, Rice Wheat Information Sheet (RWIS 49), Rice Wheat Consortium, New Delhi. India
- **Sidhu BS (Co-author)** 2005. *Farmers Guide on Pumps and Tubewells*, Technical bulletin published by Punjab Agricultural University (PAU), Ludhiana.
- Khan, A.H, Asraf.M. Chandna, P., Singh, G., Jat, M.L., Mishra, R., Mann, R., Anjum,A., Gill,M.A., **Sidhu, B.S.**,Singh, S., Gupta, Raj K. and Hanmin, Y. (2004). *Resource Conserving Technologies for Rice Production*. Rice-Wheat Consortium Traveling Seminar Report series 5. New Delhi, India: Rice Wheat Consortium for Indo Gangetic Plains PP 36.
- Gupta, R.K., Sammar Singh, R.K. Malik, Govindra Singh, R.K. Naresh, R.S. Mehla, **B.S. Sidhu**, C.M. Singh, M. Kumar, U.P. Singh, L. Bhushan, P.R. Hobbs, J.K. Ladha and B.K. Singh. 2003. *Zero-Tillage in Rice-Wheat Systems: Frequently Asked Questions*. Technical Bulletin No. 6, Rice-Wheat Consortium for the Indo-Gangetic Plains, New Delhi-110 012, India. pp 28.
- **Sidhu BS.** 2003. *Diffusion of Zero-tillage technologies in Punjab*, Technical report no.1/2003 of Department of Agriculture, Punjab
- **Sidhu BS** (Editor) 2001. and contributed articles on *Better irrigation water management* in the special issue of September 2001 of 'Ghani Kheti', a monthly magazine of the department.
- **Sidhu BS** 2000. *Exploration of Ground water and its Development for Irrigation in Beet area of Hoshiarpur district*, technical report, Govt. of Punjab.
- **Sidhu BS**, 2000. *Eco-Friendly Cheaper tillage Technologies*, article published in Agriculture Tribune, The Tribune, 24<sup>th</sup> July, 2000.



- **Sidhu BS**, 1998. *Utilization of Ground Water for Irrigation through Skimming wells in south-west Punjab*, technical report, Govt. of Punjab. February, 1998.
- **Sidhu BS**, 1997. *Tractorisation of Punjab Agriculture* technical report, Govt. of Punjab, September 1997.
- **Sidhu BS**, 1993. *Canals, Tubewells, and crop yield*. The Spectrum, the Tribune, December, 1993.
- **Sidhu BS**, 1992. *Enhancing the efficiency of Irrigation pumping Systems- A case Study*” PAU, Ludhiana.

## POSITIONS HELD SO FAR

S. No	Position	Organization	Period	
			From	To
1.	Commissioner Agriculture, Punjab and in addition Chief Conservator of Soils, Punjab and Secretary, Punjab State Farmers Commission	Department of Agriculture, Govt. of Punjab	07-06-2013	to date
2.	Managing Director, Milkfed, Punjab in addition Advisor Agriculture and Secretary, Punjab State Farmers Commission	Department of Cooperation and Department of Agriculture, Govt. of Punjab	20-12-2011	06-06-2013
3.	Director of Agriculture, Punjab and Secretary, Punjab State Farmers Commission (w.e.f. 24-02-2010)	Department of Agriculture, Govt. of Punjab	01.11.2004	20-12-2011
4.	Joint Director Agriculture (Engg.)	Department of Agriculture, Govt. of Punjab	20.05.1998	31.10.2004
5.	Agriculture Engineer	Department of Agriculture, Govt. of Punjab	23.04. 1987	19.05. 1998
6.	Divisional Engineer	Punjab State Tubewell Corporation Ltd. Chandigarh	01.01. 1987	22.04. 1987
7.	Assistant Engineer	Punjab State Tubewell Corp. Ltd. Chandigarh	06.09. 1978	31.12. 1986
8.	Soil Conservation Inspector	Department of Soil Conservation & Engineering, Govt. of Punjab	24.10. 1977	05.09. 1978