PlantLink Researcher in the spotlight

Aakash Chawade

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This month we turn the spotlight to Dr Aakash Chawade at the Department of Plant Breeding, SLU. Aakash joined as Assistant Professor at the end of 2015. He studied abiotic stress in plants during his PhD at the Gothenburg University. His post-doc at the Lund University was focused on proteomics based markers for Late blight resistance in potato together with Fredrik Levander.

-What is currently on top of your research agenda?

I am currently working on identifying key resistance genes for stripe rust and Septoria tritici blotch resistance in wheat. I am also in the process of setting up methods for high-throughput field phenotyping in wheat.

-Tell us about your latest publication?

In a collaboration project between researchers at SLU and LTH we developed a novel approach involving peptides as markers for precision plant breeding. The work resulted in the development of a targeted proteomics based machine learning approach for predicting late blight resistance in potato clones.

-What led you into your particular field of research?

As a student I was fascinated to work with next generation techniques to unravel genetic mechanisms in plants. My post-doctoral work at LTH involved developing tools and methods for precision plant breeding which played a key role in defining my research area.

-What are the implications of your research for the society?

One of the biggest challenges today is to use sustainable agriculture practices to produce enough food for growing world population. The methods and resources being developed in my research will hopefully contribute to solving this key issue.

-Finally, let´s say you got unlimited research funds; where would your research be five years from now?

I would have developed new methods and tools for precision plant breeding.