

## About the Authors

**Professor L.R. Verma** is a senior professional staff member of ICIMOD where he is the project leader for the USAID-funded Himalayan Honeybee Genetic Diversity Regional Project. Earlier, he was Dean and Head of the Biosciences Department of Himachal Pradesh University, Shimla, and Scientific Advisor in Apiculture to the Government of Himachal Pradesh, India. He obtained his Ph.D degree in 1972 from the University of Guelph, Canada, and was also an Alexander von Humboldt Research Fellow at J.W. Goethe University, Frankfurt, West Germany, from 1976-1978. In India, he has been principal investigator and coordinator of several research projects in the area of apiculture, pollination ecology, insect pests in mountain crops, and mountain biodiversity. Professor Verma has published more than 100 research papers in scientific journals of international repute, has been a member on the editorial board of different research journals, and has authored/edited three books on Apiculture.

Currently, Professor Verma is the Chairperson of the APIMONDIA International Working Group on the Asiatic Honeybee, *Apis cerana*, and a member of the APIMONDIA Commission on Bee Biology. His efforts have led to the foundation of the Asian Apicultural Association of which he is now the Vice President. He has been actively involved as a consultant/advisor in several international beekeeping development programmes in different countries of Asia.

**Dr. Uma Partap** is a Research Scientist working at ICIMOD. She has a Ph.D degree in Botany from Himachal Pradesh University, Shimla, India, and is currently carrying out research on the pollination ecology of mountain crops.