

Professor L.R. Verma is presently a senior professional staff member at ICIMOD. Earlier, he was Dean and Head of the Bio-sciences Department in 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 Alexander von Humboldt Research Fellow in 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 of mountain crops and Himalayan eco-development. Prof. Verma has published more than 100 research papers in scientific journals of international repute and is on the editorial board of different research journals.

Currently, Prof. Verma is the chairperson of APIMONDIA International Commission on Asiatic Honeybee, *Apis cerana* and a member of APIMONDIA Commission on Bee Biology. His initiative efforts, has lead to the foundation of the Asian Apicultural Association. He has been actively involved as a consultant/advisor in several international beekeeping development programmes in different countries of Asia.