

## **Ranjana RAWAL**

**Home Country:** Nepal

**Degree:** PhD in Agriculture

**Expertise:** Olericulture, Horticulture

**Research Focus:** Climate change induced stress mitigation in *Capsicum annum* through manipulation of microbial population

**Host University:** Ohio State University, United States

**Fellowship Awarded:** 2017

Ranjana Rawal is a native of far-western Nepal. She was born and raised at Dhangadhi, Kailali, Nepal. Agriculture is major source of income and occupation in Nepal. More than 65 % people are engaged in agriculture and it contributes around 35 % of national growth domestic production. Thus, nation's development is directly related to agriculture advancement which motivated her to pursue the advance career in agricultural science.

Ranjana studied B.Sc. in Agricultural Science at Institute of Agriculture and Animal Science, Tribhuvan University (TU) by receiving TU merit scholarship in 2011 and completed her Master's degree in horticulture from same University in 2013. After that she joined Center for Environment and Agriculture Policy, Research, Extension and Development (CEAPRED) as a program officer. She was keenly interested on research and empowerment of women farmers through participatory action research, so later on she switched her job to International Maize and Wheat Improvement Center (CIMMYT) as a capacity of Cropping System Agronomist. This platform gave her the opportunity to sharpen her communication skills and to learn about impact of climate change in agriculture. After two years tenure at CIMMYT, she joined Nepal Agriculture Research Council (NARC) in the capacity of Scientist in Horticulture Discipline.

Her PhD research in United States focuses on climate change induced stress mitigation in *Capsicum annum* by manipulating the unique soil microbes. This research will scrutinize the effect of Nepalese native microbes in reducing the biotic (diseases) and abiotic stresses (drought and temperature) in capsicum vegetable.

After her studies in United States, Ranjana plans to resume her position at Nepal Agriculture Research Council where she will involve in research and teaching.