

## Udvashika Puri

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### EDUCATION

<b>Texas A&amp;M University (TAMU)</b> Ph. D. in Entomology	<b>College Station, TX, USA</b>	<b>June 2024-Present</b>
<b>The Hebrew University</b> M.Sc. Agriculture, 91.44%	<b>Rehovot, Israel</b>	<b>2021-23 AD</b>
<b>Purbanchal University</b> B.Sc. Agriculture, CGPA- 3.71/4	<b>Kathmandu, Nepal</b>	<b>2015-19AD</b>

### AWARDS AND EXCELLENCE

- 1. An international school scholarship for master's study** **2022/23**  
Agriculture Research Organization (ARO)  
Volcani Center, Israel
- 2. The Pears Foundation Scholarship** **2020/21**  
M.Sc. Agriculture,  
The Robert H. Smith Faculty of Agriculture, Food and Environment, Israel
- 3. Merit scholarship award for bachelor study** **2015/19**  
B.Sc. Agriculture,  
Himalayan College of Agricultural Sciences and Technology (HICAST),  
Kathmandu, Nepal
- 4. High school scholarship** **2012**  
Kathmandu Bernhardt H. School, Kathmandu, Nepal
- 5. School Leaving Certificate Excellence Award – 2067** **2011**  
(National Level highest marks 100%) Compulsory Mathematics  
PABSON, Nepal
- 6. VP OF COMMUNICATION AND MEMBERSHIP** **2018**  
IAAS (International Association of Student  
in Agricultural and Related Sciences)  
Nepal Local Committee HICAST

### VOLUNTEER

- 1. Volunteered in 4-H Entomology Contest** **2024**  
Department of Entomology, TAMU
- 2. Volunteered in 'World DNA Day'** **2016**  
Biotechnology Society of Nepal  
Central Department of Biotechnology, TU.

## RESEARCH EXPERIENCE

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1. Master's research thesis entitled "**Role of the trafficking protein VPS13D in the transmission of *Liberibacter solanacearum* by its psyllid vector**" under Prof. Murad Ghanim at Agriculture Research Organization, Volcani center, Israel.  
Techniques learned during this project:
  - RNA extraction and Reverse Transcriptase PCR
  - DNA extraction and qPCR analysis
  - Gene silencing using dsRNA
  - Immunostaining
  - FISH (Fluorescent in situ hybridization)
  - Phylogenetic analysis and protein structure
  - Sequencing analysis
  - Protein Extraction for western blotting
  - Western Blotting
  - Microtomy
2. Research Method intern title "**Involvement of cellular processes in plant-pathogen interaction**" under Dr. Maya Bar, Department of Plant Pathology and Weed research, at Agriculture Research Organization, Volcani Center, Israel.  
Techniques learned during this project:
  - DNA extraction and PCR
  - PCR product clean-up and sequencing
  - Botrytis cinerea pathogenesis assay
3. Bachelor's thesis entitled "**Efficacy of *Metarhizium anisopliae* against white grub**" in Plant pathology and Entomology Lab at Himalayan College of Agricultural Sciences and Technology (HICAST), Kathmandu, Nepal.  
Techniques learned during this project:
  - Identification of various white grub species
  - Preparation of *Metarhizium anisopliae*
  - Efficacy of different dose of *Metarhizium anisopliae* by dipping and drenching methods.
4. **Research assistant** for end line survey of coffee production project of ICCO co-operation South and Central Asia, Jhamsikhel, Lalitpur in 2019.
5. **Research volunteer and internship** at Nepal Agricultural Research Council (NARC) Division: Entomology Division – 2018 on the ongoing project of  
Techniques learned during this project:
  - Rearing of silkworm
  - Rearing of white grub
  - Study of biology of fruit fly
  - Preparation of Sabouraud Dextrose Agar Media
  - Nematode inoculation
  - Preparation of Artificial food for galleria larvae
  - Identification of various insects
6. **Research assistant** for PhD of Prof. Rita Dhungel, Title: Reintegration of Trafficking Survivors in Nepal -2014 (2013 -2014)

## TRAINING AND SKILLS

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- Crop Pest Diagnosis v2.0, (CABI Academy) 2020
- Rooftop farming training (Kausi kheti bisayek talim) 2019  
(Agriculture Development Office, Lalitpur, Nepal)
- Use of soil testing kit (HICAST/ATC) 2018
- Use of light trap for forecasting insects of agricultural importance (NARC) 2018
- Survey protocol of armyworm in major food grain crops (NARC) 2018
- Strategic and Project Planning in Research and Development Workshop 2018  
(HICAST) Resource Person: Dr. Matthew T. Hallett ([mhallett2320@ufl.edu](mailto:mhallett2320@ufl.edu))
- Social Science Research in Agriculture 2018  
(10-14 Jan, HICAST) Resource Person: Dr. Neeraj N. Joshi (9851065889)
- Training on Biometrics and Experimental Designs in Agriculture 2017  
(01-07 Dec, HICAST) Resource Person- Prof. Anil Shrestha
- IPM Program for Students 2017  
(4Aug – 9 Nov, by CARITAS NEPAL)
- Project Work on Mushroom Cultivation (HICAST) 2017
- Project Work on Livestock Production and Management (HICAST) 2017
- Project work on plant propagation and nursery management (HICAST) 2016
- Plant Clinic (HICAST) 2016

**Software Skills:** MS Office, SPSS, GenStat, GraphPad Prism, RStudio, JMP pro, Mega 11, Adobe Illustrator, ImageJ, Photography and editing skills, English and Nepali Typing.

## REFERENCES

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### **Prof. Kiran Gadhav, Ph.D.**

Dep. Entomology  
Texas A&M Agrilife Research  
Texas A&M University  
[kiran.gadhav@ag.tamu.edu](mailto:kiran.gadhav@ag.tamu.edu)  
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### **Prof. Murad Ghanim, Ph.D.**

Dep. Entomology, Nematology and Chemistry,  
Head  
ARO, The Volcani Center, Rishon Lezion,  
Israel.  
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### **Maya Bar, Ph.D.**

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ARO, The Volcani Center, Rishon Lezion,  
Israel.  
[mayabar@volcani.agri.gov.il](mailto:mayabar@volcani.agri.gov.il)  
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### **Binayak Prasad Rajbhandari, Ph.D.**

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HICAST, Kathmandu  
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