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Dr. Ostlie,

It is a sincere privilege to write a letter of support for Mr. Jagmandeep Dhillon who has applied for the Precision Agriculture Specialist position that recently opened at North Dakota State University. Of the 95 graduate students that I have advised since starting in 1991, Jagman sits at the very top. His level of performance has exceeded every single expectation that we have.

Mr. Dhillon is a native of India where he received his BS degree from Punjab Agricultural University in 2010. He began work on his MS degree in Agronomy in June of 2014, and that was completed in May of 2016. Prior to completing his MS degree, Jagmandeep initiated many trials that are now being used in his PHD program. He has been an absolute joy to work with, mostly because he understands the value of completion. This is further highlighted by a highly creative/innovative and genuinely kind spirit.

His start in agricultural research started with my fellow colleagues at CIMMYT based in India and whom felt he needed to be given a chance to pursue graduate school. It has been no surprise that Jagman has lived up to all the accolades that were afforded him. On his own initiative, Mr. Dhillon took on a leadership role for our hand planter development with our OSU agronomy/engineering team. This work is expected to be funded by Rotary International and that will ultimately connect this project with producers all over the world. Relative to NDSU’s interests in precision agriculture, Jagman is fully vetted in the use and application of active sensors (Greenseeker) and has extensive training with GIS and an array of mapping methodologies.

Jagmandeep is a dedicated leader whose daily work embodies the ultimate benefit of meeting the needs of others. He is also incredibly bright having assisted our project on many fronts with a ‘constantly-engaged-mind’ focused on the ultimate delivery of meaningful and useful products. His insight has further assisted our joint work with the Biosystems and Agricultural Engineering Department on the design and re-design of the OSU hand planter with various BAE faculty members.

Most recently, Jagman published two senior-authored manuscripts in Agronomy Journal that delineate cereal phosphorus and potassium use efficiency in the world at 16 and 19% respectively. These manuscripts have already been cited in what has to be one of the most prestigious agricultural journals in the world. Nonetheless these papers are among 16 refereed journal publications that he has authored/co-authored and all of these coming from his time at OSU. In addition, he has several papers that are still in preparation. This level of productivity is something I am unlikely to ever see again.

Mr. Dhillon is solid, complete and diligent in a world where it is easy to be distracted. He is that student you always hope for, that ends up being a positive and productive example for others. Add leadership to those qualities, and you get exemplary. He isn’t just doing his own work, he is helping to supervise, guide, write and edit the work of other less gifted students in our project. I give him my very highest endorsement, and enthusiastically recommend him for the Precision Agriculture Faculty Member position at North Dakota State University.

Sincerely,


Bill Raun