Dr. Gurdev Khush, a world-renowned agronomist and geneticist and a World Food Prize winner will deliver a lecture hosted by the Stockbridge School of Agriculture on “What it will take to feed 9 billion people in 2050” on Monday, March 28 at 4:00pm in the Integrated Science Building room 221.

Dr. Gurdev Khush is considered as one of the heroes of the Green Revolution for his leadership in developing rice strains that enhanced the quality and quantity of rice supply in countries facing the unprecedented population growth. He is the winner of the 1996 World Food Prize (considered as the Nobel Prize in Agriculture) for his unparalleled achievements in enlarging and improving the supply of rice, one of the world’s largest food crops. After PhD and serving as a faculty member at the UC-Davis, Dr. Khush joined the International Rice Research Institute (IRRI) in 1967 as a plant breeder and was appointed head of the Plant Breeding Department in 1972. During his tenure at IRRI, Dr. Khush played the key role in developing more than 300 rice varieties in the race to keep rice production ahead of world population growth. These improved varieties, including the famous IR36, IR64 and IR72, were distributed and widely adopted in rice growing countries in Asia, Africa, and Latin America. The rice production increased from 257 million tones in 1966 to 686 million tons by 2010, a green revolution that not only feeds more than a billion people every year but also improved farmers’ income and livelihood.

For his monumental contributions to the world food security, Dr. Khush has been honored with numerous awards and honors, among which are the Japan Prize in 1987, World Food Prize in 1996, Wolfe Prize in Agriculture in 2000, Padama Shree Award in 2000, Golden Sickle Award in 2007 and many more. He has received honorary doctorate degrees from 12 universities and was elected to the US National Academy of Sciences, Royal Society of London, Third World Academy of Agriculture Sciences Italy, Indian National Science Academy, and Russian Academy of Sciences etc. Dr. Khush is the author of three books, more than 80 book chapters and over 160 scientific papers. Commenting on his life work, Dr. Ronald Cantrell, the former Director General of the IRRI’s aid, “While Dr. Khush’s name may have passed the lips of many, his life’s work has passed lips of almost half the humanity”.

Dr. Khush retired from IRRI in 2002 and returned to UC-Davis as an adjunct professor to share his knowledge and experience with students and faculty.

The Lecture is free and open to the public.