



**Name:** SADANAND A. DHEKNEY

**Title and department:** ASSISTANT-IN (RESEARCH), Mid-Florida Research & Education Center

**Address:** University of Florida/IFAS, Mid-Florida Research & Education Center, 2725 Binion Road, Apopka FL 32703

**Phone:** 407-884-2034 X-123

**E-mail:** sadanand@ufl.edu

**Homepage:** [mrec.ifas.ufl.edu/grapes/genetics](http://mrec.ifas.ufl.edu/grapes/genetics)

**Education:**

B.S.	Mahatma Phule Agricultural University, India	1997
M.S.	Tamil Nadu Agricultural University, India	1999
Ph.D.	University of Florida, USA	2004

### **Research Interests (with focus on Tropical Agriculture)**

I am involved in the development of cell culture and genetic engineering technology for improving stress tolerance of tropical & sub-tropical fruits. My research focuses on 1. Development of grapevine embryogenic culture systems 2. Development of disease resistant transgenic grapevine varieties for tropical and sub-tropical climates. 3. Study of gene sequences and genetic elements from the *Vitis* genome for use in grapevine genetic transformation. Other crops of interest include papaya, longan and mango.

### **Publications:**

Dhekney, S. A., Z.T. Li, T.W. Zimmerman and D.J. Gray. 2009. Factors influencing genetic transformation and plant regeneration of *Vitis*. American Journal of Enology and Viticulture, 60 (3): In Press.

Dhekney, S. A., Z.T. Li, M.E. Compton and D.J. Gray. 2009. Optimizing initiation and maintenance of *Vitis* embryogenic cultures. HortScience, In Press.

Dhekney, S.A., Z.T.Li, M. Dutt, and D.J. Gray. 2008. *Agrobacterium*-mediated transformation of embryogenic cultures and regeneration of transgenic plants in *Vitis rotundifolia* (Muscadine grape). Plant Cell Reports, 27: 865-872.

Dhekney, S.A., R.E. Litz, D. Moraga-Amador and A.K. Yadav. 2007. Potential for introducing cold tolerance into papaya by transformation with C-repeat binding factor (CBF) genes. In Vitro Cellular and Developmental Biology, Plant: 43:195-202.

Li, Z. T., S. A. Dhekney, M. Dutt and D. J. Gray. 2008. An improved protocol for *Agrobacterium*-mediated transformation of grapevine. Plant Cell Tissue and Organ Culture, 93:311-321.

Li, Z. T., S. A. Dhekney, M. Dutt, M. Van Aman, J. Tattersall, K. T. Kelley and D. J. Gray. 2006. Optimizing *Agrobacterium*-mediated transformation of grapevine. In Vitro Cellular and Developmental Biology: Plant, 42:220-227.

Gray, D.J., Li. Z.T., Dhekney, S.A., Hopkins, D.L. 2009. 'Delicious': An early ripening, self fertile, multipurpose black muscadine grape. HortScience, 44:200-201.

Jayasankar, S., M. Van Aman, J. Cordts, S.A. Dhekney, Z.T. Li and D.J. Gray. 2005. Low temperature storage of suspension culture-derived grapevine somatic embryos and regeneration of plants. In Vitro Cellular and Developmental Biology: Plant, 41: 752-756.

### **International Activities (with focus on Tropical Agriculture)**

I have been involved in research projects with scientists from Brazil, Colombia, India, Indonesia, Malaysia and Mexico.