



## **Biography**

### **Jari Valkonen**

Dr. Jari P.T. Valkonen (born 1964) is professor (chair) of plant pathology at University of Helsinki, Finland. His research and teaching subjects cover plant virology, plant pathology and plant biotechnology. During his career he has been employed as a junior fellow, senior research fellow and professor of the Academy of Finland, and professor (chair) of virology at the Swedish University of Agricultural Science (SLU), Uppsala, Sweden. He has spent periods of time as a researcher in the UK, USA and the International Potato Center, Peru. Valkonen's areas of expertise are molecular virus-plant interactions and pathogen defence in plants. Most of his studies concentrate on potato, sweetpotato or cassava. Studies aim to identify and isolate resistance genes that provide sustainable control against virus diseases in plants, and to understand the mechanisms by which viruses overcome or suppress resistance. His published work cover, e.g., molecular plant virology; gene mapping; genomics, transcriptomics and proteomics analyses on plants; and plant biotechnology. Besides projects directed to basic science, Valkonen leads projects with applied goals in disease management of crop plants and which involve many partners from the private sector. He has been involved in EU-funded projects since 1995 and has long-term collaboration in research capacity building with developing countries such as Uganda, United Republic of Tanzania and Nicaragua. Twenty PhD students have graduated and ten PhD students are currently doing their thesis research under his supervision. He has published 200 papers in refereed scientific journals.