



Dr. Muralidhar (Murali) Bandla got his BS in Agronomy and MS in Mycology & Plant Pathology from India and obtained PhD in plant virology from Oklahoma State University in 1996. He is an expert in immunological and molecular diagnostic methods development and involved in development of several diagnostic kits for detection of human growth factors, hormones, plant pathogens, pesticides, fungal toxins and genetically modified plant traits. He authored several research papers, and presented at several national and International meetings as invited speaker. He held senior management positions in the private sector that includes Director of Research at Agdia Inc., Indiana; Vice President of Research and Product Development at Envirologix Inc, Portland, Maine. In 2006 he joined U.S. Department of Agriculture's Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service (APHIS) as staff Director in Plant Health Programs under Plant Protection and Quarantine program (PPQ). He supervised several programs at PPQ that includes National Identifications Services, Plant Germplasm and Quarantine programs, CITES enforcement, Coordination of policy for plant inspection stations, National Clean Plant Network and Post-entry Quarantine programs. In 2009 he was appointed as Assistant Deputy Administrator, Phytosanitary Issues Management and trade. He led several international plant health technical bilateral meetings as head of the U.S. delegation and successfully negotiated several new and market expansion for U.S. agricultural exports. In 2012 he joined International Services, APHIS, and USDA as Associate Deputy Administrator and supervised all Action Program activities, including APHIS' sterile insect technology operations in Mexico, Panama and Guatemala. In November 2015, he accepted a temporary assignment in Beijing, China as Regional Manager for Asia and the Pacific.

Dr. Bandla is member of Senior Executive Services, United States Government. He is married and lives in Maryland, USA with his wife and two daughters.