

TOP 4 UNDER 40: Making their mark

Meet four young leaders bringing fresh ideas, resilience and innovation to Canada's greenhouse sector



IMAGE COURTESY GREEN MOUNTAIN HEALTH ALLIANCE

VIKRANT DHAWAN, 36

Plant Scientist & Master Grower, Green Mountain Health Alliance, Kaleden, BC

Nominated by Salil Dhaumya and Mohyuddin Mirza

“What Vikrant's nominators had to say about him:

“Vikrant Dhawan's commitment to the greenhouse sector extends far beyond operational excellence: he is equally dedicated to advancing industry knowledge, research, and professional development.

With more than 10 years of experience, Vikrant has authored and contributed to more than 50 research and extension articles, demonstrating his strong engagement with scientific research and knowledge dissemination.

Most recently, Vikrant has contributed technical articles to Greenhouse Canada, sharing practical insights and research-based knowledge with fellow growers and researchers across the industry. His contributions reflect a commitment to not only

improving his own operations but also elevating industry-wide standards.

Within the organization, Vikrant actively mentors team members, translating complex agronomic concepts into practical, actionable guidance. His efforts have significantly enhanced team capability in areas such as environmental control, irrigation management, and crop health monitoring.”

What first drew you to the greenhouse industry, and what continues to motivate you in your career today?

Growing up in Gurdaspur, a small town in Punjab, India, agriculture was not just an industry around me, it was a way of life. From an early age, I developed a deep respect for plants, cultivation, and the hard work behind producing quality crops. That curiosity eventually led me to pursue agricultural studies at Punjab Agricultural University, where I became fascinated by the

ABOVE

Vikrant Dhawan (Centre, in white) is master grower at Green Mountain Health Alliance in Kaleden, BC.

science behind controlled-environment agriculture and the potential of greenhouse production.

What inspired me most was the idea that by combining plant science, technology, and careful observation, we could create highly efficient and sustainable production systems. Over the last decade, that curiosity has grown into a passion for innovation, crop optimization, and operational leadership. Today, what continues to motivate me is seeing how small scientific improvements can create meaningful impact — whether it is improving plant health, increasing yield consistency, mentoring teams, or contributing knowledge back to the industry through research and collaboration.

Looking back on your career so far, is there a challenge or experience that helped shape your approach to leadership, innovation or teamwork?

One of the experiences that shaped me the most was stepping into highly controlled greenhouse operations where every decision could directly impact crop quality, production efficiency, and team performance. Early on, I realized that greenhouse cultivation is not only about growing plants, it is about continuously adapting, solving problems, and working together under pressure.

At Green Mountain Health Alliance, we faced challenges ranging from improving propagation success and optimizing environmental conditions to managing pest pressures and increasing production consistency. Some of the biggest breakthroughs came through patience, teamwork, and careful observation rather than quick solutions.

Those experiences taught me that leadership is not about having all the answers yourself. It is about listening to your team, encouraging collaboration, staying calm during challenges, and creating an environment where continuous improvement becomes part of the culture. Combining scientific thinking with teamwork has been one of the most valuable lessons of my career.

As someone helping shape the future of Canadian greenhouse production, what opportunities or changes are you most excited about in the years ahead?

What excites me most about the future of Canadian greenhouse production is how quickly the industry is evolving through innovation, technology, and research-driven cultivation. We are moving toward a future where data analytics, automation, precision irrigation, and environmental controls can help growers make smarter and more sustainable decisions in real time.

I am especially excited by the opportunity to combine scientific research with practical greenhouse operations to improve both crop quality and production efficiency. Even small improvements in environmental management or cultivation strategy can create a major impact when applied at scale.

I also believe one of the greatest opportunities ahead is stronger collaboration between growers, researchers, and technology providers. Sharing knowledge and learning from each other will continue to push the industry forward. For me, being part of an industry that constantly challenges you to innovate, adapt, and improve is what makes greenhouse production so rewarding and inspiring every day.



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