

Vita

Sebastian Zacharias was born in Kottayam in the south Indian state of Kerala, on April 24, 1968. He attended the Mar Thoma Seminary High School and C.M.S. College in Kottayam. He pursued his undergraduate study in Allahabad Agricultural Institute, and received a Bachelor of Technology degree in Agricultural Engineering from the University of Allahabad in December 1989. He enrolled as a graduate student in the Department of Agricultural Engineering (now Biological Systems Engineering) at Virginia Tech in January 1990. He completed a Master of Science degree in May 1992, and continued for a Ph.D. From September 1995 to January 1998, he worked as a research associate in the department on a USDA funded project, closely related to his Ph.D. dissertation.