



Brief Bio data of Dr. S. Ganeshan

Dr. S. Ganeshan, was a Principal Scientist & Head PGR Division, ICAR-Indian Institute of Horticultural Research (IIHR) Bengaluru, a national institution from the ICAR system. He joined ARS in 1978 and served in various capacities at IIHR. He was deputed to work as a visiting scientist to UC Davis & NSSL Fort Collins USA under FAO-UNDP project on Tropical & Sub-Tropical Fruits to carry out work on Pollen Cryopreservation and in vitro conservation of plant genetic resources. Back home, he was supported with grants to create an in vitro conservation facility at IIHR. Protocols for grape, other fruit & medicinal crops were optimized from grants received through an ICAR Ad hoc scheme & National Agricultural Technology Project (NATP). He established an in vitro active gene bank for grape, other fruit and medicinal species.

He was deputed to serve as Director JNTBGRI, Palode Trivandrum, an institution totally devoted to Biodiversity conservation and management, where he held the position for 3 years (2005-08) on inter governmental deputation from IIHR, Bangalore. He has over 35 years of experience in research and research management. He has contributed immensely to conservation and management of horticultural plant genetic resources, especially prospecting, exploration, collection and ex situ conservation, establishing crop specific field gene banks, in vitro banks and pollen cryobanks. He has developed pollen cryopreservation technologies for Horticultural crops which has led to the establishment of a pollen cryobank for the first time in India for fruit, vegetable, ornamental and medicinal crops, **FEATURED IN LIMCA BOOK OF RECORDS-2001**. In the world bank sponsored NATP Plant Biodiversity project, he has developed ex situ conservation strategies for Horticultural PGR; a field gene bank was established for wild horticultural species along with optimization of protocols for integrated conservation of gene pool components.

In an international project supported by UNEP-GEF on conservation of Tropical Fruit Tree species of Horticultural importance, he has contributed to this program related to conservation of tropical fruit tree genetic resources for project development in collaboration with IPGRI (Bioversity International) and ICAR- IIHR.

His areas of research included species prospecting and their validation to horticulture, genetic resources and livelihood support, species domestication and addition of new crops to the already existing crop diversity, enhancing production and productivity levels using PGRs for achieving economic returns to the stakeholders.

He has published 85 papers in journals of national and international repute https://scholar.google.com/citations?hl=en&user=3d1EqgAAAAJ&view_op=list_works and 10 book chapters, guided 4 Ph.D students and 5 PG students. He has immense international research experience as a UNDP visiting scientist and visited IPGRI Rome and served as a resource person representing India to conceptualize a user-friendly PGR compendium supported by IPGRI & CABI. He also participated in the Expert International Consultation on GIS in IPGRI, Malaysia, for Site and Genetic Diversity selection in the program on conservation and sustainable use of wild and cultivated tropical fruit Genetic Diversity-Promoting livelihoods, food security and ecosystem services under the UNEP-GEF-PDF-B. He was given the honor to chair one of the plenary sessions in the 3rd World Botanical Gardens Congress organized by Botanical Gardens Conservation International (BGCI) in April 2007 held at Wuhan, China, besides making an invited presentation.

Using his publications on onion pollen cryopreservation published in Tropical Agriculture Journal (Trinidad) & PCIN from Europe, Dr. Joachim Kellar, Head, IPK, Gartesleben, Germany has established a Pollen Cryobank for Onion & Garlic in the IPK Gene Bank, which he openly acknowledged at the International Conference on Low Temperature Science & Biotechnological Advances organized by NBPGR New Delhi in April 2015.

He has served as an honorary member of the expert committees for the National Biodiversity Authority, Chennai, Kerala State Biodiversity Board, Karnataka Biodiversity Board and several other organizations. He was one of the honorary editors for several international journals on Biodiversity, Current Science, Palynology etc.

Dr Ganeshan has been playing an advisory role in the Indian plant genetic resources management, conservation and utilization policy, intellectual property rights, traditional knowledge associated with PGRs, and statutory registration of varieties as per the Protection of Plant Varieties and Farmers' Rights Act. PPV&FRA nominated him as a judge for a Gene Savior Award to be successfully considered for Nutmeg germplasm repository collection maintained by a progressive farmer in Karnataka.