

FACULTY PROFILE



Prof. (Dr.) Dinesh Kaippilly

Professor, Department of Aquaculture

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Dr. Dinesh Kaippilly, Professor, Department of Aquaculture has a professional experience of more than 25 years in aquaculture in various institutions including teaching experience of 22 years in College of Fisheries and KUFOS. He was the Head of Fisheries Station, Puduveyypu under KUFOS for more than 6 years where he has initiated the first *Litopenaeus vannamei* farm and hatchery with the support of Government of Kerala which has attracted the attention of the farming community, public and scientific fraternity across India. He has played a pivotal role in popularizing Vannamei shrimp culture in Kerala by training hundreds of shrimp farmers all over the State. He propagated the concept of organic shrimp culture among the farming community with the support of COOP, Switzerland. He has been demonstrating high academic standards throughout his career driven by passion and excellence. There are more than 60 publications of various sorts to his credit including 25 journal papers, 3 books and 6 popular articles. He has been an integral part of many research and social projects, worth more than INR 70 million, in the capacity of the Principal Investigator or Co Investigator. He guided/has been guiding more than 60 MFSc students and 8 PhD students. Having been visited more than 15 countries on various missions, he networked and made strong academic ties with many Universities and other educational-research organizations. He was the recipient of the prestigious NUFFIC Training Fellowship from the Government of Netherlands in 2008, NSC Training Fellowship from Government of Taiwan, ROC in 2013 and 2016 (2 times), Young Faculty Award from Kerala Agricultural University and more than 8 Certificates of Appreciation - both from national and global organizations. He has hitherto organized many national and international events including the first Mangrove Festival of Kerala in November 2016. Areas of research and collaborative interest include fisheries management, fisheries education, fisheries extension, carbon neutral aquaculture, water resilient aquaculture, alternative protein sources for aquafeed industry including guar meal, organic aquaculture, climate smart aquaculture, mangrove based aquaculture. He has been designated by the Government of Kerala as the Nodal Officer to the Academic Exchange Programmes between Kerala and Norway. He has been selected to the Editorial Board of *Aquafeed International* during the Aquaculture America-24 held in San Antonio.

Education

School /College and/or University Attended	Degree/Certificate or other specialized education obtained	Year obtained
Mahatma Gandhi University, India	PhD (Fishery Science)	2010
College of Fisheries, Kerala Agricultural University, India	M.F.Sc. (Aquaculture)	1998
College of Fisheries, Kerala Agricultural University, India	B.F.Sc. (Bachelor of Fisheries Science)	1995

Current position: Professor (Aquaculture), Registrar i/c., Dean i/c (Faculty of Fisheries Science)

Professional experience: More than 25 years in aquaculture (Teaching, Research, Extension and Administration)

Other positions held:

1. State Level Nodal Officer, Indo Norwegian Academic Exchange Programme, Government of Kerala
2. Nodal Officer, ICAR-KUFOS Scheduled Caste Sub Plan Project (SCSP)
3. Nodal Officer, ICAR-KUFOS Tribal Sub Plan (TSP)
4. Fellow of World Aquaculture Society (USA)
5. Director, Aquaculture without Frontiers (AwF) Australia

Membership in Professional Associations:

1. World Aquaculture Society (WAS) – Member American, African and Asia Pacific Chapters
2. Asian Fisheries Society
3. Aquaculture without Frontiers (AwF)
4. Association of International Seafood Professionals (AISP)
5. Society of Fisheries Technologists, India (SOFTI)
6. Marine Biological Association, India (MBAI)
7. Director of WAS (Asian Pacific Chapter) 2016 to 2018.
8. Member, Election Committee, WAS African Chapter.
9. Member, Promotions and Membership Committee, WAS (USA)

International trainings attended:

- International training on “Fisheries Data Collection and Analysis (21 days in 2008)
- Wageningen University, Netherlands with training Fellowship from NUFFIC, Government of Netherlands.
- International Training Programme on Sustainable Aquaculture (First programme for 10 days in 2013). National Taiwan Ocean University, Keelung, Taiwan with Training Fellowship from National Science Council, Government of ROC Taiwan.
- International Training Programme on Sustainable Aquaculture (Follow up programme for 10 days in 2016). National Taiwan Ocean University, Keelung, Taiwan with Training Fellowship from National Science Council, Government of ROC Taiwan.
- Attended a Workshop on Fish Nutrition in 2019 organized by Auburn University, the USA and presented a concept on utilization of guar meal which is a water resilient crop of India in aquafeeds
- Attended a Seminar in Ethiopia in 2019 and presented paper on climate smart aquaculture.

Awards and Recognition

- Certificate of Appreciation from School of Fisheries, Aquaculture and Aquatic Sciences, Auburn University, USA. (2019)
- Certificate of Approbation from College of Veterinary Medicine, Department of Anatomy, Physiology and Pharmacology, Auburn University, USA (2019)
- Fellow of World Aquaculture Society Award -World Aquaculture Society, USA (2018)
- Certificate for Outstanding Contribution from World Aquaculture Society, Asian Pacific Chapter, Bangkok. (2018)
- Certificate of Appreciation from Observer Research Foundation, New Delhi, for offering inputs for the Ocean Dialogue held on 19-21 April, 2017 organized by Kingdom of Netherlands and ORF
- Training Fellowship from National Science Council, Government of Taiwan
- Certificate of Appreciation from National Taiwan Ocean University
- Certificate of Appreciation awarded by National Pukyong University, South Korea
- Certificate of Appreciation awarded by National Taiwan Ocean University, Taiwan
- Training Fellowship awarded by National Science Council, Government of Taiwan
- Certificate of Appreciation awarded by Malaysian Fisheries Society, Kuala Lumpur
- Best Young Faculty Award of Kerala Agricultural University, India

Major Publications: (First author/co-author)

- Mullet culture in India: present status and future prospects. International Book Chapter.] Eds. Ichiu Liao and Eduardo Leano. Published by National Taiwan Ocean University and Asian Fisheries Society (2020)
- Mangrove ecosystem and coastal livelihood with special reference to Indian scenario. Journal of the Commonwealth Human Ecology Council. Spring 2020 Issue 30: 24-27. (2020)
- Effect of Guar Sprout Meal on the Growth, Nutrient Utilization and Hematological Characteristics of Genetically Improved Farmed Tilapia (GIFT) Fingerlings. *Int.J.Curr.Microbiol.App.Sci.* 9(7): 3587-3599. (2020)

- Organic shrimp farming: a novel pathway on the course of aquaculture development in Kerala, In: Blue Economy, Souvenir Article published as part of the AQUABE-2019, Cochin, India. (2019)
- Pioneer attempt on cage culture of Giant Trevally, *Caranx ignobilis* through farmer participatory approach in Thiruthippuram backwaters, Kochi, Kerala, India. *Ambient Science*, Vol. 5(2) 6-8. (2019)
- Attitude and Perception of Local Inhabitants of Puduveypu area, Cochin, Kerala towards Mangrove Ecosystem. *Journal of External Education Society*, TNAU. (2018)
- Towards a food secure zone through farming commercially important Crustaceans. Book Chapter in: “Zero Hunger India: Policies and Perspectives” (Ed.): K.V. Peter Brillion Publication, New Delhi. ISBN: 978-93-87445-14-7. Pp. 519-534. (2018)
- Constraints in the Adoption of Cage Aquaculture Practices in Ernakulam District, Kerala. *Journal of Extension Education* Vol. 30 (4). (2018)
- Shrimp farming in India- history, status and thoughts for the future. International book chapter. Eds. Ichiu Liao and Eduardo Leano. Published by National Taiwan Ocean University and Asian Fisheries Society. (2016)
- Fish Diversity of Vembanad Lake in the Panangad-Kumbalam region of Kochi, Kerala, India. *Poll. Res.* 34 (2): 123-127. (2015)
- Exploring the possibility of dietary inclusion of vegetable waste in the feed of Nile Tilapia, *Oreochromis niloticus*. *Research Journal of Recent Sciences*. Vol. 4: 8-13. (2015)
- Biodiversity of Decapod Crustacean in the Vembanad Lake at Panangad-Kumbalam Region of Kochi, Kerala *Environment & Ecology*. (4B) : 1920-1923. (2015)
- Preferential indices of tribal fisher folk on selected attributes of indigenous fishes in three colonies existing on the banks of River Chalakudy, Kerala. *J. Extension Education*, Vol. 26 (3).(2014).
- Analysis of the toxic factor present in *Tor sp.* of Chalakudi River, Western Ghats. *International Journal of Environmental Biology*. 4(4): 225-229. (2014)
- Rediscovery of *Caridina carli* J. Roux, 1931 (Decapoda: Aatyidae) after a time gap of 80 years from Kerala waters. *J.Aquat.Biol.Fish.* Vol.1 (1&2): 117-122) (2013)

- Adoption of improved practices in freshwater fish farming. *Fishery Technology*, 50(2): 191-195. (2013)
- Mariculture in India: Potential, status and thoughts for the future”. Chapter in International Training Manual Edited by Yu Hu Chien, NTOU, Taiwan. (2013)
- Knowledge Level of Brackish water Shrimp Farmers. *J. Extension Education*, 23 (2): 4616-4620.(2011)
- Extent of Adoption of Improved practices in Fish curing. *J. Extension Education*, 22 (4): 4541-4546. (2010)
- Comparative studies on the individual Larval Hatch Fecundities of *Macrobrachium rosenbergii* (De Man 1879) in relation to their size and areas of collection. Conference Proceedings of Freshwater prawns: Advances in Biology, Aquaculture and Marketing: 304-309. Cochin, India. (2010)
- Mahseers in India: A review with focus on conservation and management. *Indian Journal of Animal Sciences* 80(4):26-38. (2010)
- Heat penetration characteristics and shelf life of ready to serve Mahseer curry in opaque retortable pouches. *Fishery Technology*, 48(2): 141-148. (2011)
- Low genetic differentiation on the populations of the Malabar carp, *Labeo dussumieri* as revealed by allozymes, microsatellites, and RAPD. *Asian Fisheries Science*, 22: 359-391. (2009)
- Groupers: Current status and culture prospects in India. I.C. Liao and E.M. Leano (Editors). International book chapter. Eds. Ichiu Liao and Eduardo Leano. Published by National Taiwan Ocean University and Asian Fisheries Society. (2008)
- Status of Mahseers, the “*King of freshwater systems*” in India- A review. Siraj, S.S., Christiannus, A., Kiat, N.C. and De Silva, S.S. Conference Proceedings Malaysian Fisheries Society as part of the International Conference o Mahseers, the globally renowned sport fish held in 2006 in Kuala Lumpur. (2007)

Work Undertaken that Best Illustrates Capability to Handle the Tasks Assigned

Job Title: Registrar

Organization: Kerala University of Fisheries and Ocean Studies

- Leading university administration and faculty committees, and aiding governing bodies in the development, revision, and implementation of academic policies, regulations, and procedures.
- Overseeing compliance with regulations and working closely with academic departments and faculty to develop, revise, and uphold the university's academic program offerings.
- Facilitating collaboration among university departments, including admissions, financial aid, and advising, to ensure smooth coordination of student services.
- Skilfully communicating with students, faculty, staff, and external stakeholders to handle inquiries, resolve issues, and effectively disseminate information.

Job Title: Professor

Organization: Department of Aquaculture, Kerala University of Fisheries and Ocean Studies

- Provided academic and research guidance to undergraduate, graduate, and doctoral students within the Department of Aquaculture.
- Conducted both theoretical and practical classes for students across undergraduate, graduate, and doctoral levels.
- Advocated for the advancement of aquaculture education, research, and industry growth on local, national, and international platforms.
- Contributed expertise to the formulation of aquaculture-related policies, regulations, and initiatives aimed at fostering sustainability and ensuring food security.

- Regularly assessed the effectiveness of academic programs, research endeavors, and departmental initiatives through systematic evaluation.
- Implemented ongoing improvement strategies to elevate the quality, relevance, and impact of departmental activities.
- Provided aquaculture advisory services to farmers and supported entrepreneurship within the aquaculture sector of the state.
- Advised and assisted over 1000 fish farmers during this period and conducted approximately 50 training sessions on Vannamei culture.

Job Title: Associate Professor & Head

Organization: Department of Aquaculture, Kerala University of Fisheries and Ocean Studies

- Conducted lectures, seminars, and laboratory sessions for undergraduate, graduate, and doctoral students.
- Developed instructional materials and assessment methods tailored to students across all levels.
- Provided guidance and advice to students on academic and career-related topics
- Was the major guide of 11 postgraduate students and co-guide of 59 postgraduate students during this period.
- Assessed student performance through grading assignments and examinations, offering constructive feedback for improvement.
- Mentored students to pursue original research in their field, resulting in publications in peer-reviewed journals and conference proceedings.
- Secured research funding through grants, contracts, and collaborative initiatives.
- Oversaw students' research projects, theses, and dissertations.
- Presented research findings at conferences, seminars, and academic forums.

- Engaged actively in academic and professional organizations, including serving on editorial boards, review panels, and conference organizing committees.
- Participated in community outreach, public engagement, and knowledge dissemination initiatives.
- Managed internships and experiential learning programs for students.
- Represented the department in various activities and contributed to the recruitment and evaluation of faculty and staff.

Projects currently working on:

Project name: Socio-Economic development of Scheduled Caste communities in Kerala through KUFOS initiative focusing on education and livelihood enhancement with the support of SCSP, ICAR

Year-2020-21,21-22,22-23 and 23-24

Location: 14 districts of Kerala

Position held: Implementing Officer

Major activities and services provided

- Meetings and surveys were conducted across Kerala to identify economically and socially disadvantaged individuals and families who would benefit from the project.
- Various entrepreneurship development programs were organized for women and children.
- Materials and equipment were provided to the beneficiaries to initiate entrepreneurship ventures as part of the livelihood empowerment program.
- Approximately 5,000 individuals and nearly 1,000 families were positively impacted by these activities.

Project name: Socio-economic development of Scheduled Tribal communities in Kerala

Year: 2020-21, 2023-24

Major activities and services provided

- The project was executed in the seven tribal districts of Kerala.
- Meetings and training sessions on entrepreneurship development and education were conducted.
- Students from tribal villages were chosen to participate in a variety of training courses as part of a life skills development program.
- Almost 2,000 individuals benefited from the projects, with many of them embarking on their own entrepreneurial endeavors.

Project Name: BIORAS-SHRIMP Project

Funding Agency: European Union

Year-2023-2025

Position: Project Lead (India)

Major activities

- The development of sustainable, productive and resilient farming systems is an obliged way to provide consumers with affordable, safe, traceable and healthy food, while minimizing pressure on ecosystems
- The improvement and innovation of land-based integrated multi-trophic aquaculture systems allow the production of high-quality seafood and the reduction of waste and pollution.
- The valorization of underutilized resources (as the solid waste or the nutrient enriched effluent water) could also provide new by- and side-products ensuring sustainability and circularity

Project Name: Effect of dietary single cell protein (meridian product) on growth performance and survival rate of Pacific White Shrimp (*Litopenaeus vannamei*)

Funding Agency: Meridian Biotech Pvt. Ltd. USA

Position: Project Advisor

Objectives: To determine the growth, survival, and nutrient utilization of Pacific white shrimp (*Litopenaeus vannamei*) fed fish meal replaced with the Meridian Product in diets.

Completed projects

Project Name: Organic farming, brood stock development and seed production trials in *Penaeus monodon*.

Year: Nov 2019 - Ongoing

Location: Pan India

Client: COOP Switzerland

Main project features:

The project was initiated and funded by COOP Switzerland to promote the organic shrimp farming in India. The funding for phase 1 was approx. 1 Million INR (1 USD=73.49 INR). The project was implemented in association with the Kerala University of Fisheries and Ocean Studies (KUFOS) in India where KUFOS was the end implementing agency and technology provider for the overall implementation of the project across 28 states and 9 Union territories of the country.

The major areas of intervention under the project are capacity building of the shrimp farmers, improve technology adoption, create aquaculture infrastructure, reduce post-harvest losses, increase the production of organic brood stock to ensure availability of quality seeds to the farmers, promote peer learning and knowledge transfer, promote usage of quality feeds and create awareness about feeding using locally available organic resources to reduce cost of production, improve overall profitability of the farmers, create operating protocols for adoption of food safety

standards from farm to fork, create awareness about farm economics and book keeping, prospecting usage of ICT in shrimp farming, promote investments in the sector, create market linkages, prospecting the domestic and export market potentials of organic shrimp, Create regulatory framework to facilitate organic aquaculture, creating awareness about the certifications – Organic, FSSAI, EU, USDA and domestic certifications like Indo cert in aquaculture.

Achievements

Position Held: Principal Investigator

Activities performed:

- Mapping of the potential areas for organic aquaculture and shrimp farming in particular
- Value chain analysis to identify gaps, challenges and requirements of various players
- Creating standard operating protocols for the selection of farmers / organizations for the project
- Conducting Capacity need analysis among the shrimp farmers, processors, exporters and other value chain players
- Developing training modules for capacity building among various value chain players
- Creating market linkages for promotion of organic shrimp farming – Online and offline platforms were prospected and submitted a report for the investments and technology requirements to the central and state governments and to the funding agencies
- Submitted suggestions on required regulatory frameworks for promotion of organic shrimp farming
- Benchmarking to international standards and creating a strategy document
- Established model hatcheries and micro training centers for peer learning
- Identify and prospecting innovative technologies for adoption in organic aquaculture

Project Name: “Efficacy of plant-based ammonia binder products in controlling ammonia, nitrate, nitrite and

water quality enhancement in grow out ponds”

Funding Agency: AVITECH Nutrition PVT

Year-2022-2023

Position held: Principal Investigator

- Evaluated the efficacy of plant-based ammonia binders for controlling ammonia, nitrate and nitrite in ponds.
- Studied the effect of the product on growth and survival rate of the animals
- Studied the effect of the plant-based ammonia binder on environmental sustainability

Project Name: Setting up of Cage culture Units for production and training in two geographical coastal zones of Kerala for further dissemination and popularization of the technology

Year: Dec 2018 - Ongoing

Location: Kerala

Client: Government of Kerala

Main project features:

Government of Kerala wanted to promote cage culture in brackish waters to ensure the protein availability, food security, livelihood promotion and investment promotion in the state in aquaculture sector. University has standardized and disseminated the technology of backwater cage culture to hundreds of farmers since 2008-09. Under the scheme, KUFOS was mandated with the assignment to set up brackish water cage culture units across the state through dissemination of technology and prospecting interested farmers and entities. The project was also having an objective of developing equitable share to all 14 districts and promote the cage culture in backward districts of the state so that there is employment generation and availability of quality fish across the state.

Position Held: Principal Investigator

Activities performed:

- Developing an implementable road map for dissemination of brackish water cage culture across the state
- Identifying and prospecting farmers, farmer groups, self-help groups and private entrepreneurs to be associated with the project
- Creating standard formats for implementation of units of cage culture production
- Creating forward and backward linkages for these selected entities for establishment of units
- Capacity building and hand holding of these units to ensure self-sustainability and profitability
- Monitoring and evaluation of these units for the roll out of back end subsidies from the state government
- Creating a marketing plan for the produce to and promoting fish consumption

Project Name: Feasibility of intensive shrimp farming for Seashore Group of Companies, Doha

Year: May 2018 – Aug 2018

Location: Qatar

Client: Seashore Group of Companies

Main project features:

The company wants to establish large scale shrimp farming in the state of Qatar. They had approached KUFOS to conduct a techno economic study and provide a vision document for the same which includes the investment required, technology to be used, area of production, market strategy while assessing the environmental impact of the project.

They were also planning to have a value added production to tap the market potential of domestic and export markets.

Position Held: Team Leader

Activities performed:

- Accessing the current market requirements through secondary data and primary stakeholder interactions
- Understanding the customer requirements in domestic and export markets
- Creating an implementable business plan for the entity with financial, technological and phasing strategy

- Conducting site visits and doing an environmental sensitivity analysis
- Creating a strategy for value addition in line with the requirements of domestic and export markets
- Creating a strategy for biosecurity protocols to be followed
- Creating a strategy for market linkages
- Creating a bankable business plan and liaising with various financial institutions
- Creating a manpower strategy for the firm
- Suggestions on various international certifications to promote exports

Project Name: Effect of Mineral Application on water quality and Performance of *Penaeus vannamei* in earthen ponds.

Year: 2018-2019

Location: Kerala

Client: KEMIN Industries South Asia Pvt. Ltd.

Main project features:

The US based Kemin Industries approached KUFOS for doing farm level testing of their mineral mixture product for shrimp farming. The assignment was to test the prospective mineral mixture and provide a field test report and suggest the necessary changes based on the field trails. The experiment was carried out in *Penaeus vannamei*.

Position Held: Principal Investigator

Activities performed:

- Developing protocols for conducting field trials at a farm level.
- Developing Bio security protocols for the trials
- Developing a Statistical model for interpreting the results and outcomes
- Developing standards for the water quality while maintaining minimal deviations in the mineral content.

- Data analysis and interpretation
- Preparing suggestions based on the field results

Project Name: Mangroves for Fisheries and Environmental Enhancement in Cochin-a comprehensive intervention through participatory approach

Year: 2016-2018

Location: Kerala

Client: Government of India

Main project features:

Government of India has sanctioned a project to quantify the benefits of mangroves, discourage its deforestation and further popularize its afforestation through people's participation.

Position Held: Principal Investigator

Activities performed:

- Biodiversity survey of the proposed areas
- Conducting field studies on mangrove ecosystems
- Designing and executing various awareness campaigns for promoting protection of mangroves
- Developing a roadmap for mangrove afforestation

Project Name: Exploratory studies on alternative live feeds for larval rearing of commercially important fin and shell fishes.

Year: 2014-2016

Location: Kerala

Client: Government of Kerala

Main project features:

To identify and isolate the natural live food organisms, a project was funded by the University for a short duration through which a few copepods were isolated, identified and cultured.

Position Held: Principal Investigator

Activities performed:

- Isolation of the live food organisms
- Promoting Pure culture
- Developing protocols and guidelines for mass culture
- Field trials on fish larvae to assess the efficacy

Project Name: Establishment of a Mangrove Research Centre

Year: 2012-2017

Location: Pan India

Client: Government of Kerala

Main project features:

Kerala, a vulnerable small ribbon of land is always under the risk of ocean level rising, storms and tsunamis. Through the mangrove afforestation and resultant biological fences created, these calamities can be prevented better. The coastal pollution which affects the fish population of the area adversely can be mitigated considerably by the newly created mangrove ecosystems. Govt. of Kerala had mandated KUFOS to take up a comprehensive project to protect mangroves and promoting the afforestation.

Position Held: Principal Investigator

Activities performed:

- Mapping of mangroves in across the state.

- Conducting a species diversity and survey in the mapped area
- Assess the ecological benefits of mangroves based to the coastal region
- Setting up of mangrove nursery in selected zones
- Production of mangrove saplings for propagation
- Supply of saplings to different States vulnerable to coastal erosion/tsunamis
- Organizing mangrove afforestation programs for creating awareness on the importance of mangroves to coastal population.

Project Name: Trial culture of *Penaeus vannamei* at Fisheries Station, Puduveypu, KUFOS

Year: 2013-2017

Location: Kerala

Client: Government of Kerala

Main project features:

Govt of Kerala has taken up promotion of Vannamei culture in to meet the increasing demand of the Shrimp (processed and fresh) in domestic and export markets. KUFOS was mandated by Govt of Kerala to prospect farmers across the state and build capacities in them for Vannamei culture. The total project had an allocation of 3.5 million INR which was used in promotion of vannamei culture, creation of necessary infrastructure, capacity building, creating pilot farms and micro training centers etc.

Position Held: Principal Investigator

Activities performed:

- Developing an overall implementable project plan
- Developing guidelines for selection of farmers and entities for the project
- Developing guidelines for farm designing and construction

- Developing a techno economic feasibility report
- Handholding the farmers in hatchery construction
- Developing agencies and farmers for seed production
- Conducting capacity building programs for farmers, entities and technicians

Project Name: Freshwater aquaculture (RAS, Aquaponics and Pond System) in Qatar

Year: 2017 onwards.

Location: Qatar

Client: Kingdome of Qatar

Main project features:

A private entrepreneur from Qatar approached KUFOS for making a business plan for creation of freshwater aquaculture production facility involving technologies like Recirculating Aquaculture System, Aquaponics and pond system. The total project cost was for 4.28 million USD.

Position Held: Team Leader

Activities performed:

- Environmental Impact Assessment of the prospective location
- Preparation of techno economic Feasibility report
- Developing various protocols for the farm
- Conducting a market scan for prospecting the domestic and export markets
- Developing various protocols for proposed processing facilities
- Preparing a manpower plan for the proposed facility

Project Name: Fish seed production and ranching in Chalakudy River for improving the tribal livelihood of

Vazhachal Forest Division, Western Ghats.

Year: 2008-2012

Location: Kerala

Client: Government of Kerala

Main project features:

In the river banks and nearby areas of the Western Ghats there is a group of people belonging to the Scheduled Tribes. The major occupation of these forest dwelling people is the Minor Forest Produce collection. Because of the overdependence on the resources of the forest, they are getting depleted which is a serious concern among the planners. In certain tribal colonies, the fishing from the rivers and associated reservoirs forms a significant source of livelihood. They collect various fishes from the water bodies and sell it in the market. The project was to discourage the dependence of the tribes on the forest resources to the extent possible by putting forward alternate avocations through fisheries and aquaculture. Government of India funded this project to address the issues of the tribal communities aiming at their empowerment.

Position Held: Principal Investigator

Activities performed:

- Social survey of the tribal communities to assess the current situation
- Resource mapping of tribal communities for designing the programs
- Capacity building in tribal communities for promoting aquaculture
- Developing infrastructure for production of seeds and hatcheries
- Developing farmer collectives and collective marketing
- Developing forward and backward linkages

Project Name: Eco-friendly high yielding technologies for increased production from fresh water fish farming

through farmer participatory approach.

Year: 2008-2012

Location: Kerala

Client: Government of Kerala

Main project features:

To improve the aquaculture potential of the region, various entrepreneurial activities related to freshwater was promoted with tangible results and outcome.

Position Held: Co Investigator

Activities performed:

- Designing protocols for culture of suitable freshwater species
- Conducting a techno economic feasibility study
- Capacity building and hand holding of farmers

Any other relevant information:

- Established various facilities which includes various aquaculture farms, hatcheries, mangrove research centers, aquaculture field trial units, wet labs and organic shrimp hatcheries.
- Conducted national and international training programs on aquaculture, ornamental fish culture, mangroves etc.
- Member of Academic Council and Senate of KUFOS, India's first Fisheries University.
- Member of Institutional Management Committee of the largest Fisheries Research Organization in India, Central Marine Fisheries Research Organization (CMFRI).
- Associated with various multinational consulting firms and consortiums as expert member of their advisory panel.
- Served as the Academic Council of Kerala Agricultural University
- Serving as the Academic Council Member of Cochin University of Science and Technology (CUSAT)