

Dr. S. MANIAN

Vice-Chancellor

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PROFILE IN BRIEF

Prof. Dr. S. Manian, a specialist in herbal science and plant pathology, had his higher education in St. Joseph's College, Tiruchirappalli and Centre for Advanced Studies in Botany, University of Madras, Chennai. In the past three decades, he has built an illustrious research and teaching career with 130 original research articles and reviews published in reputed journals, 24 Ph.Ds and 32 M.Phils guided and innovative academic programmes started. He was instrumental in introducing a Master degree programme in Bioinformatics in the country by initiating it in Bharathiar University in 2001 and served as its founder Course Director. He has handled many funded projects which include application oriented industrial projects and has patented the novel inventions. Prof. Manian has widely travelled in USA, Europe and East Asian countries. He was a Commonwealth Academic Staff Fellow to Horticultural Research International, UK (1995-96), INSA-JSPS Visiting Professor to Kyushu University, Japan (1998) and INSA-CAS International Visiting Scientist to Xishuangbanna Tropical Botanical Garden, Chinese academy of Sciences, China (2005). He has served as Professor and Head, Department of Botany, Director, School of Life Sciences and Dean, Faculty of Research in Bharathiar University, Coimbatore. He is also serving as expert member in National Assessment and Accreditation Council (NAAC) and various government funding agencies. At present he is the Vice-Chancellor of Annamalai University, the first Vice-Chancellor after the enactment of Annamalai University Act of 2013 by the Government of Tamil Nadu.



Contributions in Administration and Policy Making

- As Professor and Head, since June 2005, groomed the Department of Botany as a strong teaching and research centre with 12 major projects received, 13 conferences/workshops organized, 10 foreign visits by faculty and students, 3 International/Industrial MoUs signed for collaboration, two innovative M.Sc. programmes supported by UGC and DST - FIST recognition for the department.
- As Dean, Faculty of Research of Bharathiar University, drafted a new, student friendly regulation for M.Phil, Ph.D. and D.Sc. programmes, incorporating the recent trends in research.
- As Chairman, Board of Studies in Botany (PG), Board of Studies in Bio-informatics, Board of Studies in Research, Board of Studies in Interdisciplinary Subjects and a Member of Standing Committee on Academic Affairs, was instrumental in updating syllabi to international standards.
- Served as Chairman of Human Ethics Committee which scrutinizes and approves projects submitted to ICMR, DST, CSIR etc., pertaining to collection of data on human beings.
- Acted as the Convenor of Ethics Committee, constituted by Vice-Chancellor, Bharathiar University, looking into the cases of plagiarism and unethical behaviour of students and examiners.
- Served as Member of Advisory Committee to DRDO – BU Center for Life Sciences to advice its Director.
- Served as Convenor for the Committee constituted by Bharathiar University for the allocation of funds sanctioned by UGC for XI plan period.
- Acted as a Member in the Committee to suggest norms for M.Phil/Ph.D. admission in Bharathiar University.
- Served as Convenor of the Committee to restructure guidelines for the award of University Research Fellowships in Bharathiar University.

Innovative Programmes Introduced

- Instrumental in introducing M.Sc. Bioinformatics for the first time in the Country in Bharathiar University in the year 2001. Served as its Founder-Course Director (01.07.2001-30.06.2005), nurtured the M.Sc. Bio-informatics programme, including the infrastructure development and student support such as, arrangement of summer training, final project work and placement till it was upgraded as a separate Department.
- Initiated an innovative M.Sc. programme in Textiles and Apparel Design in the Department of Botany and got UGC assistance to the tune of Rupees sixty lakhs to run the programme. The programme lead to the creation of a separate Department in Bharathiar University.

Membership in National Level Committees

1. Member, UGC Experts Committee for Major Research Projects to evaluate fresh proposals as well as mid-term review of the ongoing projects (2009 – 2012).
2. Member, National Steering Committee for International Projects, Coffee Board, Government of India (2009).
3. Member, Tea Research and Evaluation Committee, UPASI Tea Research Foundation, Valparai (2008 - 2012).
4. Member, High Level Expert Committee for the Evaluation and Review of Research and Extension Programmes of Coffee Board, Govt of India (2011).
5. Expert member, National Assessment and Accreditation Council (NAAC) (2010 – till date)

Honours

1. Awarded INSA-CAS Bilateral Exchange visiting fellowship (2005) - visited Xishaungbanna Tropical Botanical Garden, Yunan province, China and established a research collaboration venture .
2. Commonwealth Academic Staff Fellowship (1995-96) tenable at the Department of Microbial Biotechnology, Horticultural Research International, Wellesbourne, Warwick, UK. Worked on molecular diagnostics of mycorrhizal fungi.
3. INSA -JSPS Visiting Professorship to Japan (1998-99) tenable at the Department of Plant Pathology, Kyushu University, Fukuoka, Japan. Delivered lectures and planned strategies for the assessment of soil health in polluted environment.

Professional Affiliations

1. Life member - Indian Science Congress Association.
2. Member - Society for Advancement of Botany.
3. Member - Academy of Environmental Biology, India.
4. Life member - Mycological Society of India.

Countries Visited on Academic Pursuit

| Country visited | Period | | Purpose of visit |
|---------------------|------------|------------|--|
| | From | To | |
| USA & UK | 10.09.2011 | 27.09.2011 | University delegation |
| Malaysia | 30.11.2009 | 08.12.2009 | Organising Committee Member of Global Summit on Medicinal plants |
| Singapore | 09.03.2009 | 13.03.2009 | University delegation |
| Thailand | 20.09.2005 | 26.09.2005 | Research Training |
| China | 04.09.2005 | 19.09.2005 | INSA-CAS International Exchange Fellowship |
| Japan | 18.08.1998 | 23.08.1998 | INSA-JSPS- visiting Professor |
| France | 07.06.1996 | 18.06.1996 | HRI visiting Fellowship |
| UK | 28.09.1995 | 04.08.1996 | Commonwealth Academic Staff Fellowship |



Examiner in Public Service Commissions

- Union Public Service Commission (2002, 2003, 2005-2011)
- Andhra Pradesh Public Service Commission (2003)
- Karnataka Public Service Commission (1998)
- Tamil Nadu Public Service Commission (1996)

Fields of Specialization

- Microbiology and Plant Pathology
- Nutraceuticals and Phytopharmaceuticals

Research Interest

- Studies on plant-microbe interaction with special reference to host-pathogen interactions and response of crop plants to application of different microbial biofertilizers and biopesticides.
- Development of food/feed supplements (Probiotics / antioxidants etc.).
- Scientific validation of traditional knowledge on little known food crops and herbal medicine.
- Impact of plant based bioactive compounds on human health and pathogenic microbes.

Research Projects

1. UGC project (No. P. 25-4(13531)/83; dt 24. 01. 1983) entitled 'Enzymatic saccharification of cane bagasse'-01. 03. 1983 to 28. 02. 1985.
2. An industrial project (PA/MGL-R & D/06; dt. 25. 02. 2006) entitled 'Biological control of blister blight disease of tea' sanctioned by Parry Agro Industries Ltd, Valparai, Coimbatore District-01. 03. 2006 to 28. 02. 2007.
3. A UGC major Research Project (F. No. 32-416/2006(SR); dt. 13. 04. 2007) entitled 'Studies on nutritional evaluation and biofunctional properties of selected underutilised legumes, *Bauhinia vahlii*, *Canavalia ensiformis* and *Vigna vexillata* through *in vitro* and *in vivo* approaches'- 01.04. 2007 to 31. 03. 2010.
4. An industrial project (PDD/001 dt. 27.02.2008) entitled 'Screening of natural saponins for feed additives in poultry production' sanctioned by Suguna Poultry Farm Ltd., Coimbatore – 1.3.2008 to 28.2.2010.
5. An industrial project entitled "Commercial trial of two selected natural sources of saponins as feed additive in poultry production" sanctioned by Suguna Poultry Farm Ltd., Coimbatore – 01.03.2010 to 28.02.2011.
6. An industrial project (CCRI/Res/ICO-CFC/2010-11/1205) entitled "Biological control of coffee leaf rust caused by *Hemileia vastatrix* Berk. & Broome" sponsored by Central Coffee Research Institute, Coffee Research Station, Karnataka.

Technology/ Product Developed for Commercial Application

1. A software for forecasting Blister blight disease in tea in collaboration with UPASI Tea research Foundation
2. A Microbial Biopesticide for the management of foliar fungal diseases in tea in collaboration with Parry Agro Industries Ltd.
3. A feed supplement (deodourizer) for poultry industry in collaboration with Suguna Poultry Farm Ltd.



International Research Collaboration

Established research collaboration between Department of Botany, Bharathiar University and Xishuangbanna Tropical Botanical Garden (XTBG), Chinese Academy of Sciences, Mengla, P. R. China in Biodiversity conservation, exploration of medicinal plants and development of bio-energy plants and served as Coordinator for Indian side.

Co-curricular Activities

- Served in boards of studies of various South Indian Universities / Autonomous colleges in the field of Botany and Bioinformatics.
- Served as expert in the selection / advisory committees in Universities / Colleges
- Coordinator, UGC sponsored refresher courses at Academic Staff College, Bharathiar University.
- Coordinator, DST sponsored FIST programme, Department of Botany, Bharathiar University.
- Served in the editorial boards of many journals.

Extension Activities

- Served as Consultant to Suguna Poultry Farm Ltd., Coimbatore in the development of feed supplements through an MOU between the Industry and Bharathiar University.
- Collaborated with UPASI Tea Research Institute, Valparai, Coimbatore District in the control of a blister blight disease of tea.
- Delivered lead lectures in many symposia / seminar / conferences at National level.
- Delivered invited lectures in many academic staff colleges for the benefit of College / University teachers.
- Delivered many popular lectures in the emerging areas of biological sciences in several colleges.

Scientific Events Organized/Participated

Symposia/Seminar/Conference/Workshop organized - 13
Symposia/Seminar/Conference/Workshop participated - 72

Research Guidance

Ph.D. guided - 24
M.Phil. Guided - 32

Publications

Research papers published in refereed journals - 130
Books -5; Symposia/Seminars participated – 72
Sequence / model deposited – 23

Patents

Anti-inflammatory activity of *Heracleum rigens* Wall. ex. DC. (50/CHE/2009)
Heracleum rigens extract with anticancer activity (51/CHE/2009)



Education

| Degree | College / Univ. | Year of Passing |
|--------|---|-------------------------------|
| Ph.D. | Center for Advanced Studies in Botany, University of Madras, Chennai | 1981 |
| M.Sc. | St. Joseph's College, Tiruchirappalli | 1974 - 1976 (University Rank) |
| B.Sc. | St. Joseph's College, Tiruchirappalli | 1971 - 1974 |

Professional Experience

| S.No | Position/ Designation | Institution | From | To |
|------|-------------------------------------|--|------------|------------|
| 1. | Vice-Chancellor | Annamalai University, Annamalai Nagar | 28.05.2015 | - |
| 2. | Dean | Faculty of Research, Bharathiar University, Coimbatore | 18.03.2009 | 07.01.2011 |
| 3. | Director | School of Life Sciences, Bharathiar University, | 01.07.2008 | 30.06.2013 |
| 4. | Professor and Head | Department of Botany, Bharathiar University, | 01.07.2005 | 30.06.2013 |
| 5. | Course Director - Bioinformatics | Bharathiar University, | 06.07.2001 | 30.06.2005 |
| 6. | Professor | Bharathiar University, | 01.12.1995 | 30.06.2013 |
| 7. | Reader | Bharathiar University, | 01.12.1989 | 30.11.1995 |
| 8. | Lecturer | Aided College Service | 24.02.1982 | 30.12.1989 |

Personal Details

Date of birth : 7, January, 1953

Nationality : Indian

Designation : Vice-Chancellor,
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