



## CV of Syam Viswanath

Throughout a scientific career spanning over 31 years in Indian Council for Forestry Research and Education (ICFRE), MoEF&CC, Govt of India, from Aug 1992 to Dec 2023 including 5 years and 3 months on deputation as Director, KSCSTE-Kerala Forest Research Institute (KFRI) Peechi, Kerala from June 2018 to Sept 2023. Under his leadership, KFRI was selected as the Best Performing Institute of KSCSTE for the year 2021-22 and an award bestowed in a special ceremony by the Hon, CM of Kerala, Shri Pinarayi Vijayan.

He has a basic degree in Agriculture from Kerala Agricultural University and M.Sc in Forestry from College of Forestry, KAU and Ph.D in Forestry from Kumaoun University Nainital, Uttaranchal state. He has been very active primarily in agroforestry research and conservation science with special focus on Bamboo and Sandalwood and has more than 140 publications to his credit which is available freely in Research gate. Primary focus has been on Traditional Agroforestry Systems (TAFS) in rain fed ecosystems in various parts of India as evinced from his considerable publications in that field. Has major contributions in promoting Sandalwood based AF practices across India. One of his major initiatives has been the promotion of Sandal wood farming in India through execution of several research projects funded by NMPB-Govt of India, through various research publications, as Course coordinator of the one-week Sandalwood promotion and cultivation training programme since 2008 till 2018 at IWST Bangalore, establishment of On-farm demonstration trials across India and production of Quality planting stock of sandalwood for farmers. In recognition of his expertise and publications on sandalwood he was nominated as member of Sandalwood development committee under the Economic Advisory council to PM, NITI Aayog, Govt of India in 2021.

Conservation and domestication of prominent bamboo species and utilization of bamboo edible shoots has been the main focus of his recent scientific publications. He has also contributed significantly as author in three chapters including bamboo based agroforestry

practices in the Status Report on Bamboo conservation management and utilization in India (2017) of ICFRE which has helped in major policy decisions. Another major contribution at national level has been promoting the cultivation of non-thorny bamboo species in India. In India out of 137 species of bamboo recorded 18 species have been identified as commercially important species by National Mission on Bamboo Applications (NMBA) and subsequently National Bamboo Mission (NBM). However, the package of practices for cultivation of these species have not been previously attempted. He has attempted to bring out cultivation packages for 4 species viz. *Guadua angustifolia* in 2012 *Dendrocalamus stocksii* in 2012 and *Dendrocalamus brandisii* in 2013 and *Bambusa balcooa* in 2021 is notable. Other initiatives include, promotion of edible bamboo shoots and production of quality planting stock, establishment of several on-farm demonstration trials in Karnataka and Punjab under various funded projects of NMBA-DST, NBM, Min of Agriculture and Punjab Forest Dept. *D.stocksii* as a bamboo species worth cultivating in India has been given special focus in a short documentary available on Youtube channel (<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=BAiEN9rMvM0>).

Main focus of his research on Agroforestry has emphasized on Traditional Agroforestry (TAF) models across India like the *Acacia nilotica* based model in Chhattisgarh, Shaded perennial tea-silver oak AF models in Nilgiris, TamilNadu and Ficus based AF model in Karnataka. The in depth research on various aspects of traditional AF systems has provided a platform for facilitating policy interventions in dryland agriculture practices. In recognition of my contributions in the field of agroforestry, he was honored with the Dr KG Tejawani memorial award for outstanding contributions in Agroforestry research and development in 2021 by Indian Society of Agroforestry (ISAF) based in ICAR-CAFRI, Jhansi.

In a nutshell his main research contributions are in the interdisciplinary areas of Bamboo and Sandalwood cultivation and propagation, cropping systems research and Agroforestry. He has completed 20 externally aided research projects and 6 internal projects while in ICFRE. Has mentored 25 students for Ph.D as main guide of which at least 15 are in the field of Agroforestry. He has completed several international and national assignments as Consultant for UNIDO on bamboo. Guest Faculty in Azim Premji University, Bangalore since 2015 and regularly conducts an open Course on Bamboos for a full semester for Post graduate students. He is also a Courtesy Professor in School of Forest Resources and Conservation (SFRC), University of Florida, Gainesville since 2015 besides being a recognised guide for PhD in Calicut University, CUSAT Cochin, FRI University. Dehra Dun and National Institute of

Design, Ahmedabad. He has guided 22 students in the capacity as main guide for award of Ph.D and currently 3 more students under his guidance are pursuing Ph.D in Calicut University at KFRI.

Besides these, also serving as Advisory member of National Bamboo Mission, Govt of India, Executive council member of Asia Pacific forestry Research Institutes (APAFRI) based in Forest research Institute of Malaysia (FRIM) for the two consecutive periods in 2018-2021 and 2021-2023, Program Advisory committee (PAC) member of DST, Govt of India for SC/SP schemes of SEED division since 2019 he is a Reviewer for International Journals such as Agroforestry Systems, Frontiers in Ecology and Evolution, Journal of Bamboo and Rattan.

His scientific papers in Research Gate have a fair amount of readership with reads 267,388 in Research gate, 1375 citations in Google scholar as on 1/1/2025, H index of 21 and i10 index 38 (<https://scholar.google.com/citations?hl=en&user=MOyHR7YAAAAJ>) and VIDWAN score of 9.5/10 in Expert Database and National Researchers network of MHRD, Govt of India (Vidwan ID: 2555679| Profile Page ([inflibnet.ac.in](http://inflibnet.ac.in))). Has taken a major initiative to get GI tag for Kannadi paaya, a special bamboo mat from *Teinostachyum wightii* for the stakeholder Urali indigenous tribal community in Venmani, Idukki district while at KFRI. Developed a substitute for Jigat from *Persea deccanensis* for the agarbatti industry for which a patent was granted. Patent granted on 11/01/2022 for Binding matrix for incense sticks or incense cones as Patent application No : 202241001581 while during his tenure at KFRI.

Publications pl see

(<https://scholar.google.com/citations?hl=en&user=MOyHR7YAAAAJ>)

(Vidwan ID: 2555679| Profile Page ([inflibnet.ac.in](http://inflibnet.ac.in)))

<https://scholar.google.co.in/citations?user=MOyHR7YAAAAJ&hl=en>