

INTRODUCTORY NOTE - Prof. BASKARAN MANIMARAN



Prof. Baskaran Manimaran (b.1961) is the founder Vice-Chancellor of the Tamil Nadu Dr.J Jayalalithaa Fisheries University (TNJFU), Nagapattinam (20.03.2013 – 19.03.2016).

Prof BM, an alumnus of the Fisheries College and Research Institute, Thoothukudi, INDIA obtained his Ph.D., in Aquaculture. His areas of specialization include Fisheries Environment and Sustainable Aquaculture.

Having served as faculty in the alma matter for more than two decades, He was deputed to the Coastal Aquaculture Authority (CAA), Government of India in 2008, where He served as the Technical Director, having control over the Coastal Aquaculture Activities of the entire nation, till assuming the coveted position of Founder Vice-Chancellor of Tamil Nadu Fisheries University.

As a Faculty, He taught 7 UG and PG courses in Fisheries Environment and guided 12 students. Concurrently, He has handled eight research projects by availing external funds from agencies like DBT, ICAR, TNEB and World Bank. He is having 81 publications including research and technical papers, reports, manuals and books to his credit. He has also demonstrated a viable climate friendly seafood waste composting technology for carbon foot print reduction, through the establishment of a seafood waste bio-composting plant first of its kind in India and the same was approved by the policy makers and included in the Twelfth (12th) Five Year Plan (2012-17) of Tamil Nadu for implementation. He has undergone training programmes in FORV Sagar Sampada ship, NAARM, MoEF, MIRCEN-UNESCO and under Indo-US initiative. He has also availed international fellowships sponsored by UN-IMO, Rotary International Foundation, UN-FAO, Gordon Research and Canadian International Development Agency.

He is a full member of Asian Fisheries Society, Society for Aquaculture Professionals and annual member in World Aquaculture Society & in similar other professional bodies. Officially, He has travelled widely and visited many institutes of USA, Canada, Europe,

Argentina, China, Thailand, Myanmar and Middle East has good contacts globally for translating them towards the benefit of end users.

As Technical Director of CAA, He has successfully handled the task of introducing the exotic shrimp, *Litopenaeus vannamei* in India and his accomplishment made in doubling the cultured shrimp production over an eye wink period of two years, was highly appreciated.

He has represented India on nomination from the Department of Animal Husbandry, Dairying and Fisheries, Ministry of Agriculture in the Terminal workshop on FAO TCP project on Certification of Small scale Aquaculture, in the Asia Regional Seminar and Brain storming session, and in the Asia Pacific Emergency Regional Consultation on the emerging shrimp diseases – EMS and AHPNS, held at Bangkok, Thailand.

He was a member of the Governing Council of the National Centre for Sustainable Aquaculture, Ministry of Commerce, Government of India, as well as in the National level steering committee to oversee and monitor Tilapia seed and grow out production. He was a part of the NFDB working group that drafted and finalized the modalities for the formulation of Aquaculture crop insurance. As an expert member, He was involved in the finalization of baseline requirements for the establishment of Fish Disease Diagnostic Laboratories across the country. Nevertheless, He has also served as member, expert as well as coordinator in many other international and national programmes, to cite a few, of Food and Veterinary Mission / Audit of European Union, CIBA-NACA aqua-climate panel, Aquaculture subcommittee of Bureau of Indian Standards, State Action Plan Working Group on climate change and ASEM aquaculture platform. He was the Member Convenor of the expert committee to develop standards for declaring SPF status of shrimp breeding and farming. He has organized an international JIFSAN trainers training course on 'Good Aquaculture Practices' sponsored by USDA. A number of awareness / sensitization programmes and trainings were organized by him for the benefits of shrimp farmers and fisheries officials in Tamil Nadu, Kerala, Karnataka, Andhra Pradesh, Maharashtra, Odisha West Bengal and other Maritime States and Union Territories of India.

As a Founder Vice-Chancellor, He is an architect of the State funded Fisheries University, first of its kind, in India imparting professional education, research and training to enhance fish production and its utilization by following the State Agricultural University (SAU) pattern and syllabi. He has transformed Fisheries College & Research Institute (estd. 1977), Tuticorin, which was a tiny dot into a state level university through establishment of five (5) Campuses, five (5) Schools, two (2) Directorates, two (2) Centres and two (2) Training Institutes in a period of three (3) years and they were made functional through various state legislation. The MoUs made with National (10 Nos) and International (8 Nos) Universities and Institutes like Auburn University, USA, Curtin University, James Cook University and Sydney University of Australia, Guangdong Ocean University and Shanghai Ocean University of China, Ghent University, Belgium, University of Las Palmas, Spain led to many advancements in R&D in Fisheries & Aquaculture during his tenure. The infrastructure

developments made during his tenure spell out his ability in pioneering the task (www.tnjfu.ac.in). He has established a College of Fisheries Engineering (CoFE), first of its kind in India and it offers B.E (Fisheries Engineering) from the year 2015-16 onwards apart from the second Fisheries College and Research Institute (estd. 2014) at Ponneri, Chennai. He was also a Chief-Editor of TNFU Journal, Newsletter, Audit and Annual Reports.

His visionaries made the Tamil Nadu Dr. J Jayalalitha Fisheries University to be ranked as 36 in the India's Most admired Science / Technology Universities out of 693 Universities (2015) recognized by UGC with in the period of 2 years (www.educationworld.in). His plans in elevating the University to an international standard are getting a shape with his strong groundwork in his every attempt.

Currently, He is also the Chairman of Research Advisory Committee, ICAR – Central Institute of Fisheries Technology, Kochi for the period 2016 – 2019.

Though He is having the traits of out of box thinking and looking beyond the horizon, He remains modest and simple in his approach.

Presently, He is an international aquaculture consultant promoting clean and green logics in aquaculture and fisheries. As a veteran aquaculture professional with scores of decades in the public sector, Prof. BM is aspiring for translating his legacy to aquaculture & fisheries entrepreneurs. Designing supply chains for implementing new products or technologies and determining the scale and economics of commercial enterprises and implementing innovations adapted to local context and constraints and overall transformation of aquaculture towards ecological sustainability and resilience is his mission.