

Research Profile – Dr. Ayyanadar Arunachalam

Dr. Ayyanadar Arunachalam is a distinguished agricultural scientist, tropical ecologist and natural resource management specialist with more than three decades of experience in research, teaching, extension, scientific leadership and international cooperation. He is currently serving as Joint Director, Veer Chandra Singh Garhwali Uttarakhand University of Horticulture & Forestry, Bharsar. Prior to this, he serviced the ICAR–Central Agroforestry Research Institute (CAFRI), Jhansi as the Director and has also served as Principal Scientist in the Office of the Director General, ICAR and Assistant Director General (International Relations) in the headquarters of Indian Council of Agricultural Research (ICAR).

His research career has focused on forest ecology, soil ecology, agroforestry, biodiversity conservation, shifting agriculture, land-use dynamics, ecosystem services and sustainable natural resource management, with particular emphasis on tropical and Himalayan ecosystems. His doctoral research examined the role of detrital material, fine roots and microbial biomass in nutrient restoration and organic matter dynamics in regenerating forest ecosystems.

Dr. Arunachalam has made substantial contributions to the development and promotion of agroforestry as a pathway for livelihood enhancement, climate resilience, ecological restoration and sustainable land management. His scholarly contributions include more than 375 research papers, over 150 book chapters and more than 25 books, besides supervision of 20 Ph.D. scholars. He has also contributed significantly to major scholarly works on agroforestry systems, livelihood security and ecosystem services.

He is a Fellow of the National Academy of Agricultural Sciences (NAAS), elected in 2016, and serves as Chief Editor of the *Indian Journal of Agroforestry*. His research and institutional leadership integrate scientific knowledge, indigenous practices, ecological sustainability and policy-oriented approaches for advancing agroforestry and natural-resource-based livelihoods.

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