



Prof. P. K. Ramachandran Nair

Professor P. K. Ramachandran Nair was born in 12th March 1942 at Thiruvananthapuram district of Kerala. He is a distinguished Professor of Agroforestry and International Forestry at the School of Forest Resources and Conservation, University of Florida. Dr. Nair known as the “Father of Agroforestry” received several global recognition to the science of agroforestry. His areas of research interest include: agroforestry in the tropics and subtropics, integrated farming systems, soil carbon sequestration and climate change mitigation, ecosystem services, and soil fertility management.

He earned B.Sc and M.Sc degrees from Vellayani Agricultural College; received his Ph.D. in agronomy from Pantnagar University, Post Doctoral training in England and Doctor of Science degree from Goettingen University, Germany.

Dr. Nair’s work in the 1970s at CPCRI, Kasaragod, was a path-breaking contribution to the development of agroforestry (AF). The complementary sharing of plant-growth resources in coconut- based multistory cropping system that he quantified became the scientific foundation for agroforestry. Based in Nairobi, Kenya, as a founder of ICRAF (World Agroforestry Centre), Dr. Nair helped to develop agroforestry as a robust discipline. In 1987, he was invited to initiate an academic programme at the University of Florida, USA.

Prof. Nair has published prolifically with 300 journal articles, 100 book chapters and 16 books (author/editor) to his credit, he is one of the most cited scientist in agroforestry. He had edited 13 books for the Advances in Agroforestry book series and was the Editor-in-Chief of the journal *Agroforestry Systems*, 1993 – 2005. His college-level textbook (1993), translated into multiple languages, became the standard book for agroforestry worldwide; a revised edition was published in late 2021.

Prof. Nair received the Humboldt Prize, the highest academic honor in Germany. He is a fellow of the American Association for the Advancement of Science; the National Academy of Agri. Sciences, India; and the American tri-societies of Agronomy, Crop Science and Soil Science. He has also received numerous other prestigious awards, including honorary Doctorate degrees from the Universities of Kyoto (Japan), Kumasi (Ghana), Guelph (Canada); and Santiago de Compostela, Spain. In the year 2023, Kerala Agricultural University conferred Honorary Doctorate degree to Dr. PKR Nair in appreciation of his research contributions.