

Brief Bio-Data of Participants

Bajpai, S.

Smita Bajpai is a Bachelor of Ayurvedic Medicine and Surgery (BAMS). She is currently Programme Officer WHDRC, CHETNA, and Board Member, Dai Association, Gujarat. She has 17 years' work experience (1989 till date) at CHETNA in the area of women's health and has a gender sensitive and holistic perspective that integrates sound traditional health and healing practices. She has worked on several publications concerned with the health of women and children.

Balasubramanian, A.V.

A.V. Balasubramanian obtained an MSc degree in chemistry from Bangalore University and did a post MSc diploma in molecular biophysics from the Indian Institute of Science, Bangalore. Later, he studied physiology and biophysics at the State University of New York at Stony Brook. Since 1982, he has been involved in work relating to various aspects of traditional Indian sciences and technologies and trying to explore their current relevance and potential. Currently, he is the Director of the Centre for Indian Knowledge Systems (CIKS) – an institution devoted to exploring the contemporary relevance and applications of Indian knowledge systems, particularly in the area of agriculture. He is also the Asian Co-ordinator of the Compas Programme.

Bandara, S.

S. Bandara has a PhD in plant pathology and microbiology from London. He has postdoctoral experience in the Environmental Protection Agency of USA. He has 37 years' teaching experience in the Department of Plant Protection and Microbiology, Department of Agribiology, University of Perediniya, Sri Lanka.

Bhargava, P.M.

Currently, P.M. Bhargava is chairman of the Medically Aware and Responsible Citizens of Hyderabad, Sambhavna Trust, Bhopal, BREAD (Basic Research, Education & Development Society) and Vice Chairman of the National Knowledge Commission, Government of India. Adviser to several well-known pharmaceutical and other industries, he is or has been chairman of three companies and member of the board of several others. Biographies appear in numerous national and international Who's Who. He is a past or present member (or chairman) of over 125 major national and international standing committees, and he is the former and founder Director of the Centre for Cellular and Molecular Biology (CCMB), Hyderabad. Widely regarded as the architect of modern biology and biotechnology in India, he is a scientist, writer, thinker, institution builder and administrator. He has over 100 major national and international honours and awards including the Padma Bhushan from the President of India; the National Citizens Award (India); the Legion d'Honneur from the President of France; Visiting Professorship, College de France and the Life Fellowship, Clare Hall, Cambridge.

De silva, N.

Prof. Nimal De Silva, a chartered architect and archaeologist, is a senior professor and the Director of the Centre for Heritage and Cultural Studies, University of Moratuwa, Sri Lanka.

Ganeshaiyah, T. V.

T.V. Ganeshaiyah has a doctoral degree in veterinary science. She is currently an associate professor in the Department of Veterinary Biochemistry, Veterinary University, Bangalore. She has obtained several awards including the C.V. Raman award for young scientists and the CSIR Senior Fellowship. She has worked on a number of publications.

Gunarathne, M.

M. Gunarathne works for ECO (Ecological Conservation Organisation), Sri Lanka.

Hariramamurthi, G.

G. Hariramamurthi works as a Senior Programme Officer in the Foundation for Revitalisation of Local Health Traditions (FRLTH), Bangalore. He leads a team and guides the implementation of programmes for documentation, rapid assessment and promotion of use of local health traditions for human beings and livestock. He has attended a number of national and international meets and workshops.

Haverkort, B.

Bertus Haverkort was born and raised on a farm in the Netherlands. He studied agriculture, rural sociology and communication, psychology and art. He has worked on agricultural development programmes in the Netherlands, Colombia and Ghana. In 1997, he joined ETC foundation in the Netherlands as manager of ILEIA and later of Compas. Since then, he has been studying traditional farming and traditional knowledge in a wider context. He has co-edited several books and articles on the subject and travelled widely in Latin America, Africa and Asia. He is presently the research co-ordinator of Compas. He has specialized in the Navya Nyaya system of philosophy, all systems of *Vedantha* with special reference to *Visistadwaita Vedanta*, Sanskrit literature and Indian philosophical systems, comparative studies of Sanskrit with modern schools of thought, Sanskrit and computers and the study of scientific subjects in Sanskrit like phonetics, aeronautics, encryption and so on.

Hewanila, N.

N. Hewanila is the Director of FOL (Friends of Lanka).

Jayasundar, R.

R. Jayasundar has a doctoral degree in physics from Cambridge University, UK. She is an associate professor in the Department of NMR, AIIMS, New Delhi. Currently, a student of BAMS, SJS Ayurveda College, Chennai, she has worked on more than 90 publications in reputed international journals. She has obtained several academic honours and awards, which include the Young Scientist Award (1991) and Women of the Award, Lions Club, Chennai (2001).

Kahandawa, K.A.J.

K.A.J. Kahandawa has a B.A. (Hons) in sociology from the University of Ceylon, Peradeniya. Founder and President of Future In Our Hands (FIOH) Development Fund, a leading NGO operating in the Uva province of Sri Lanka, he is also the Programme Director of Operation Days Work, Sri Lanka, and is a visiting lecturer – “Sub-national Level Development Planning”– at the University Of Colombo, Sri Lanka.

Kanani, P.R.

P.R. Kanani has a doctoral degree in agriculture for which he worked on indigenous practices of farmers in South Gujarat. He is an associate professor in the Department of Agricultural Extension, Gujarat Agriculture University. He is the recipient of several awards (UNESCO, GAAS, SRISTI etc.). He has worked on several publications related to indigenous knowledge.

Krishnan, C.

Chitra Krishnan has a PhD in applied mechanics from IIT, New Delhi. She has an MS in civil engineering from S.U.N.Y. Buffalo, USA and a B.Tech in civil engineering from IIT, Madras. She has worked on organic farming in Road’s End Farm, USA, and is currently working on a project on rainfed agriculture.

Kumara, V.K.A.

V.K.A. Kumara has a postgraduate degree in agriculture and is presently working as Director of Krishi Prayoga Pariwara (KPP). He has been associated with KPP since its inception in 1996 and is involved in the promotion of organic farming and rural developmental activities in Karnataka state. KPP has made a significant contribution to the Karnataka State Organic farming Policy. It is also involved in organic village programmes of the state in two districts.

Lakshmithathachar, M.A.

M.A. Lashmithathachar is currently

- President, Samskrti Foundation, Mysore
- Member, Academic Council, VYASA, Deemed University, Bangalore
- Senior Honorary Advisor, FRLHT
- Member, Board of Studies, Department of Vaishnavism, Madras University, Chennai

He has specialized in the Navya Nyaya system of philosophy, all systems of *Vedantha* with special reference to *Visistadvaita Vedanta*, Sanskrit literature and Indian philosophical systems, comparative studies of Sanskrit with modern schools of thought, Sanskrit and computers and the study of scientific subjects in Sanskrit like phonetics, aeronautics, encryption and so on.

Manohar, P.R.

P. Ram Manohar has a postgraduate degree in Ayurvedic pharmacology and is presently the Director of Research at Arya Vaidya Pharmacy, Coimbatore. Currently, he is also the Principal Investigator of the first ever National Institutes of Health,

USA, funded research project to evaluate Ayurveda scientifically. He is on the Research Advisory Committee of the Commission for the History of Science, Indian National Science Academy, New Delhi. He also has authored several papers at national and international levels on Ayurveda.

Nair, B.

Balakrishnan Nair has a doctoral degree in botany and is a researcher with several years' experience. He is currently working as a Senior Programme Advisor in FRLHT, Bangalore.

Naraindas, H.

H. Maraindas has a doctoral degree in sociology from the Delhi School of Economics. He is currently working as an assistant professor in the Department of Social Sciences, Centre for the Study of Social Systems, Jawaharlal Nehru University, New Delhi. His research interests include the history of western medicine, especially small pox and vaccinations and the history and anthropology of Ayurveda and other alternate systems of medicine.

Nene, Y.L.

Yeshwant Laxman Nene is Founder-Chairman of the Asian Agri-History Foundation, Secunderabad, India, established in 1994 to promote research in the history of the agriculture of South and Southeast Asia and to disseminate that information worldwide. Dr. Nene retired as Deputy Director General on December 31, 1996 from the International Crops Research Institute for the Semi-Arid Tropics (ICRISAT). He obtained his PhD in plant pathology from the University of Illinois, USA. Dr. Nene has received several awards/honours, the notable ones being the International Rice Research Prize by FAO in 1967; the Shri Om Prakash Bhasin Award in Science and Technology in 1992; the Indian Society of Pulses Research and Development (ISPRD) Award in 1994 and the ISPRD Gold Medal in 2001. He is Managing Editor of the international quarterly journal Asian Agri-History. Dr. Nene's goal is to ensure that Indian agricultural heritage serves as the foundation for future education, research and development in agriculture.

Perera, K.A.J.

As Programme Officer of FIOH, K.A.J. Perera is responsible for the overall monitoring and supervision of all Compas related activities and networking. He has 10 years' work experience in PLAN International, Sri Lanka, where he was involved in project planning, implementation and evaluation of projects and personnel administration.

Raju, G.

G. Raju is currently the Executive Director of Gram Mooligai Company Limited, Bangalore.

Ranganathan, T.T.

T.T. Ranganathan has a doctoral degree in agriculture and is currently the Dean, faculty of Agriculture and Animal Husbandry, of Gandhigram Rural Institute. He is also part of the Compas Universities Consortium Programme.

Reijntjes, C.

Coen Reijntjes was born in the Netherlands in 1948. To describe him in his own words, "I have a liberal Christian rural middle class background, and I received an academic education in land use planning and soil and water conservation at Wageningen University. My first intercultural experience I gained in the Middle East and West Africa. I worked six years in Niger and the Cape Verdian Islands in so-called integrated rural development programmes. Back in the Netherlands, I found employment with ETC Consultants for development co-operation. For ETC, I worked long time in the ILEIA programme as content editor of LEISA Magazine and during the last 3 years as editor of Compas Magazine."

Shankar, K.J.N.G.

K.J.N. Gowtham Shankar is a Chairman and the Executive Director of IDEA (Integrated Development through Environmental Awakening), an organization working for tribal welfare in the North-eastern Ghats. He has been involved in documenting and reviving several indigenous resource management practices, publishing educational materials on the above subjects and conducting training programmes for tribal youth and women on endogenous development. The areas of work include agriculture, ethnoveterinary practices, nutrition and maternal and child health.

Sridevi, R.

R. Sridevi has a master's degree in agriculture (horticulture) and business administration. She works as a Programme Assistant for CIKS, Chennai. She has been involved in Compas related activities of CIKS for the past three years and in co-ordinating research on Vrkhshayurveda.

Subhashini, S.

S. Subhashini has a bachelor's degree in agriculture and a master's in business administration. She is the Programme Co-ordinator of CIKS, Sirkazhi. She is involved in experimental research and field activities in Nagapattinam district.

Unnikrishnan, P. M.

P.M. Unnikrishnan graduated as an Ayurvedic physician in 1992. Unnikrishnan completed his postgraduation in medical anthropology at the University of Amsterdam in 2000. He has been working with FRLHT from 1995. He spent his initial years at FRLHT building up a database of the medicinal plants used in Ayurveda. He is currently co-ordinating the ETC programme on Endogenous Development and Local Health Traditions at the Traditional Systems of Medicine (TSM) unit of the Foundation. He worked as a visiting associate professor and was a research fellow at the Toyama Medical and Pharmaceutical University, Toyama, Japan.

Venkatasubramanian, P.

Padma Venkatasubramanian has a PhD in applied microbiology from the University of Cambridge, UK. She is currently the Joint Director of FRLHT, Bangalore. She is involved in intercultural research involving traditional Indian medicines and modern science. She is a recipient of several awards including the Research Grant from the National Geographic Society for “Contemporary Relevance of Indian Traditional Methods of Medicinal Plant Collection and Processing”.

Vivekanandan, P.

P. Vivekanandan has a master’s degree in agriculture and has done a certificate course in participatory planning (Belgium University). He is the Executive Director of SEVA, Madurai, TN. He has received several awards including the National First Prize, NIF, (National Innovation Foundation) and the IDRC Research Award awarded by Developing Countries, Farm Radio Network, Canada. He is the editor of *Nam Vazhi Velanmai*, a quarterly newsletter on indigenous knowledge and innovations (in Tamil). He has worked on several publications related to indigenous knowledge.

Wood, A.

A. Wood has a master’s degree in mathematics and theoretical physics from the University of Cambridge, UK, and a doctoral degree in anthropology from the University of Chicago, USA. He is now an independent student working from home in Pune, India, on the modernization of traditional knowledge.