

Professor Subramaniam Natarajan – Brief Resume

Professor Natarajan, son of Thiru S.Subramaniam was born in an agricultural family in 1950 in Sulur village of Coimbatore district, Tamil Nadu. He obtained his Bachelor's degree in Agriculture from Annamalai University, Master's and Doctoral degrees in Soil Science and Agricultural Chemistry from Tamil Nadu Agricultural University, Coimbatore. He got his PG diploma in Remote Sensing at Indian Institute of Remote Sensing, Dehradun. He underwent eight different training programmes in soil survey and resource management. He specialized in the fields of soil survey& classification, remote sensing and GIS, natural resource management and agricultural planning. He served for more than 37 years, twelve years in the Department of Agriculture and twenty five years in Tamil Nadu Agricultural University.

Professor Natarajan's service at the Department of Agriculture (1972-1984) includes Agricultural Officer (Research) (9 years) and Assistant Agricultural Chemist (Group I Research Officer) (3 years). He carried out soil resource inventory and management studies during his tenure in the Department of Agriculture. He prepared thirty four soil survey bulletins for the use of farmers, extension workers and policy makers. The soil resource maps prepared by his team were helpful to the State Government in getting grant-in-aid from World Bank for modernization of Periyar-Vaigai Scheme (1975-76) and also from European Economic Community for modernization of irrigation tanks (1983-84) in Ramanathapuram district.

Professor Natarajan served in Tamil Nadu Agricultural University from 1984 to 2010 in different capacities viz., Assistant Professor (4 years), Associate Professor (7 years) and Professor (11 years) and Director (Soil and Crop Management Studies) (3 years). He served as undergraduate and postgraduate teacher, researcher and extension worker at different periods. As a teacher, he introduced innovative methods in undergraduate and postgraduate courses. He designed curriculum for the new courses introduced viz., soil resource management, remote sensing and GIS and pedogenesis. His notable contributions as a scientist include the establishment of Department of Remote Sensing and GIS, Soil Reference Centre, Mineral Water Plant in TNAU. With his efforts, thirty three funded schemes with a total budget outlay of Rs.14 crores were secured. Twenty one M.Sc.(Ag.) students and twelve Ph.D. Scholars guided by him got their junior and senior research fellowships respectively through the schemes secured by him. He was able to provide employment opportunities to fifty undergraduates (JRFs), thirty two postgraduates (SRFs) and eighteen Ph.D. Scholars (RAs).

Prof. Natarajan developed six research methodologies, five research processes, five adoptable technologies and three products for the use of extension and scientific personnel. Among them, the findings on alternate cropping system in Cauvery delta zone, soil spatial variability and precision farming, agro-eco specific land use models for coastal regions in India, GIS for developing management strategies for increased sugarcane production, soil and land degradation maps (for whole Tamil Nadu state) and digital soil database for farm planning have more application values. He organized 13 training programmes and 10 symposia / workshops pertinent to soil resource inventory, land use planning and soil health enhancement. After his assumption of charge as the Director, Centre for Soil and Crop Management Studies, scientists of the six constituent disciplines namely, Agronomy, Agro Climate Research Centre, Crop Physiology, Central Farm, Environmental Sciences and Soil Science & Agricultural Chemistry were geared to make progress in education, research and extension. Number of funded schemes increased from 53 in 2006-07 (with financial outlay of 6.6 crores) to 85 schemes in 2008-09 (with financial outlay of 30 crores).

Through Professor Natarajan's coordination efforts, package of practices for 11 crops viz., sugar beet, sweet sorghum, moth bean and novel crop cultivation strategies such as pit method of sugarcane

cultivation, paired row planting in sugarcane and aerobic rice cultivation were developed. Programmes on 11 new initiatives including climate change, agri-weather bulletin, environmental observatory, fertilizer products from organic wastes and block level soil information system were successfully implemented. Patents for six crop growth promoters were filed. Commendable improvements were made in the University Farms, particularly in scientific crop planning, cropping intensity, seed and fodder production, goat and turkey farming, water and energy conservation, farm mechanization, effective recycling of farm wastes and maintenance of farm. Farm receipts were increased by twenty seven per cent through his concerted efforts.

In the capacity of Director (Soil and Crop Management Studies), Professor Natarajan organized seven national training programmes, two international symposia and three national workshops pertinent to natural resource management, soil health, organic farming, soil resource inventory, land use planning, environmental protection and climate change.

Prof. Natarajan made policy interface with Tamil Nadu Government on several programmes viz., soil health, organic farming, rain fed farming, water soluble fertilizers and wasteland development. He acted as an expert in the Cauvery Technical Cell and helped the Tamil Nadu Government in the matters related to Cauvery Water. He was also involved by the State Government for preparing the project proposals for getting grants from GOI under National Food Security Mission and National Agricultural Development Programmes. He acted as member of many advisory committees constituted by State Planning Commission, Government of Tamil Nadu and Government of India. He has developed linkages with nine international institutions and eleven national institutions. He attended sixty one seminars during his service. He delivered fifty one guest lectures in different scientific forums. He has a wide array of 225 publications including 9 books and 19 book chapters.

Prof. Natarajan obtained seven different awards for his academic and professional excellence including Best PG Teacher and Best Researcher Award by TNAU. He served as Expert Committee Member for carrying out Academic Auditing in the affiliated colleges of Tamilnadu Agricultural University. He has associations with "Noyyal Care" which has linkages with farmers and organizations to develop farm related activities. He visited foreign countries including Sri Lanka, New Zealand, the Netherlands, Sweden, Norway, Canada, USA and Australia.

Professor Natarajan joined as Vice Chancellor of GRI-DU on 23 rd May 2014 to disseminate his expertise on to develop rural oriented academic and research values amidst the younger generation of rural India.