

BIODIVERSITY: LIFE TO OUR MOTHER EARTH



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Dedicates this book to

Prof. Dr. S. Kannaiyan

Chairman, National Biodiversity Authority
Government of India, Chennai

*A man of perfection, dedication and
innovation*

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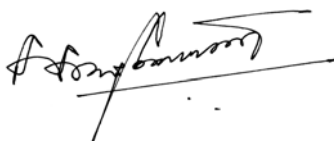
FOREWORD



Biological resources are essential for human survival and sustainable development. Scientific discoveries have always been an unceasing quest of mankind. The amenities of the modern man and the standard of living he enjoys are the benefits from these. Unfortunately man has been indiscriminately exploiting and degrading the biological resources in the last few decades. At the same time, the demand for these resources is also growing everyday. The rapid decline in the quantity and quality of these biological resources has led scientists to ask how these resources could be properly managed and conserved. Improper management of these biological resources has serious repercussions. It is evident from the drying up of potable water resources, increasing droughts, degradation of lands, reduction of forest flora and fauna, the deterioration of the quality of air and the general destruction of biodiversity. Biodiversity forms the foundation for sustainable development. It is the basis for the environmental health of our planet and the source of economic and ecological security for the future generation. Biodiversity management is very essential because man depends on plants, animals and other biological resources for his survival.

This book containing the proceedings of the **National Conference on Biodiversity** is thus a timely contribution. We need to convert the ideas developed at the conference into action at the field level.

I congratulate **Dr. S. John William** for bringing out this useful volume, which is in consonance with the need of the hour in the service to humanity.



January 18, 2006

Prof. Dr. S. Kannaiyan
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PREFACE

India is rich in biological resources. Biodiversity is the key indicator of a healthy planet and healthy society. Biodiversity is the basis of human survival and economic well being as it provides a large number of goods and services that sustain our lives.

Environmental degradation depletes the biological resources. There is a growing concern about the extent and rate of degradation of biological resources in India. This menacing trend of unwise use of biological resources is to be kept under control or else our own survival would stand threatened and imperilled. It is our important duty to pay attention to this and devise sound eco-friendly strategies, create awareness, and involve people with regard to the conservation of biodiversity.

In placing this book in your hands, I am immensely grateful to **Prof. Dr. S. Kannaiyan**, Chairman, National Biodiversity Authority, Government of India, Chennai for his genuine interest in this endeavour and for his readiness to help me with his valuable suggestions right from the beginning, and also for writing the foreword.

Here I would like to express my sincere gratitude to the management of Loyola College, particularly to **Rev. Dr. B. Jeyaraj, S.J.**, Rector, Loyola College, Chennai, **Rev. Fr. A. Albert Muthumalai, S.J.**, Principal, Loyola College, Chennai and **Rev. Fr. F. Andrew, S.J.**, Secretary, Loyola College, Chennai, for their inspiration and sustained support.

I am thankful to **Prof. T. Ambrose**, Head, P. G. & Research Department of Advanced Zoology and Biotechnology and to my esteemed colleagues, for their co-operation and encouragement.

I am also indebted to my dear Students and Research Scholars of the P. G. & Research Department of Advanced Zoology and Biotechnology and to my Research Team of **SECNARM**, **Dr. M. Jayakumar**, **Dr.K. John Ravindran**, **Dr. S.A. Shine David**, **Dr. (Mrs.) Geetha Govindharajan**, **Dr. A. Ernest Dominic Savio**, **Mr. A. Yousuf Khan**, **Ms. R. Judith**, **Mr. M. Raja**, **Mr. C. Puia**, **Ms. M. Flora** and **Mr. S. Rajkumar** for their contribution.

I acknowledge my sincere thanks to the Resource Persons who gave me the texts of their talks.

I am indeed grateful to **FAO, IFPRI** and **WWF** for providing me with their valuable literature.

It is hoped that this book would not only be informative to its readers but also promote concern for the conservation of biodiversity.

January 30, 2006

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