

BIO-PROFILE OF J.JUSTIN MOHAN

Shri. J.Justin Mohan belongs to the 1999 batch of the Indian Forest Service (IFS) and was trained at the Indira Gandhi National Forest Academy, Dehradun, the Indian Military Academy, Dehradun and the Lal Bahadur Shastri National Academy of Administration, Mussoorie. He joined as Secretary, National Biodiversity Authority(NBA) in September 2019.

He was earlier heading the Kerala Soil Survey and Soil Conservation Department, Ground Water Department, and State Horticulture Mission concurrently since September 2015 before joining the National Biodiversity Authority.

He has served in the Forest Department in different capacities as Divisional Forest Officer of Munnar and Palakkad Divisions, as Wildlife Warden and Park Director of Silent Valley National Park and as Conservator of Forests of High Range Circle in Kerala. He was heading the Kerala Agriculture Department when the state faced unprecedented floods in July-August 2018 and played a major role to revive the agriculture sector by assisting the affected farmers through a Special Package sanctioned by the Central Government.

He also served as the first Project Director of Rs. 1,840 crore Kuttanad Project involving comprehensive development of the distressed Kuttanad agrarian ecosystem spread across three districts of Kerala where paddy is cultivated below sea level in about one lakh acres.

In 2011, Government of India appointed him as the First Secretary in the High Commission of India, Colombo to coordinate the relief, rehabilitation and development of war affected families in Sri Lanka. During his three year tenure, he had implemented 50 major projects worth Rs. 7,000 crore in Sri Lanka including the Indian Housing Project involving construction of 50,000 houses for the benefit of the conflict affected communities under an owner driven approach.

After completing his schooling from Campion Higher Secondary School, Trichy in 1990, he graduated in Agriculture and completed his post graduation in Agricultural Microbiology from Tamil Nadu Agricultural University, Coimbatore before joining the Government. He completed his Bachelor's Degree in Law (LLB) from Kerala University and Masters Degree in Law from National Law School of India University, Bangalore. He also holds a Masters Degree in Management and Public Policy from Indian School of Business, Mohali and an MBA Degree from Alagappa University. He was the Tamil Nadu State Topper in the Civil Services Examination conducted by UPSC in 1998 but opted to join the Indian Forest Service where he secured All India Rank 8.

He is a recipient of the Global Tiger Forum Award, Wildlife Trust of India Award and the Nilgiri Wildlife Prize for contributions to wildlife conservation, the PCCFs Distinguished Certificate Award for contribution to forest management. The SKOCH award was conferred on the Soil Survey and Soil Conservation Survey Department, Kerala for developing a mobile app on soils titled 'MANNU' that benefits the farmers to reduce their cost of cultivation through optimum application of manures and the best department award was received at the State Science Congress in 2017 when he was heading the department as Director. He obtained ICAR (Indian Council for Agriculture Research) scholarship for pursuing his Masters Degree in Agricultural Microbiology and had secured JNU (Jawaharlal Nehru University) scholarship for pursuing Post Graduation in Biotechnology. He has represented the Government of India in international forums at the United Nations Convention on Biological Diversity, Montreal, Canada and Food and Agricultural Organization, Rome. He had also undergone a training in Forest and Environment Management at Yale University, USA. He is the author of Management Plan for Palakkad Forest Division and Munnar Division and has authored popular articles in forestry, wildlife, agriculture and soils.