

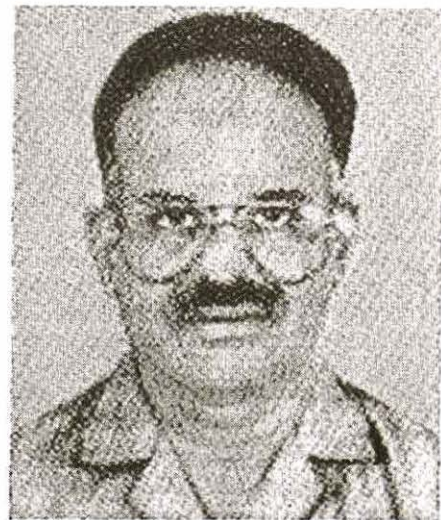
## Dr. M. Devaraj, Former Director of CMFRI passes away

Dr. M. Devaraj, Former Director of CMFRI passed away at Chennai on 12-7-2013 after a brief illness at the age of 74. He hailed from Nagercoil and studied in Scott Christian College, Nagercoil for his B.Sc. He completed his M.Sc. in Zoology course in Madras Presidency College. After getting his post-graduate degree, he joined the Tamil Nadu State Fisheries Department and worked at Bhavanisagar station during 1964-1969. He joined CMFRI in 1970 and worked at Mandapam Camp during 1970-1978, during which time he worked on the taxonomy, biology and population dynamics of commercially important scombroid fishes and obtained a Ph.D. from Madurai Kamaraj University. He worked in CIFE during 1978-1990 and raised to Joint Director level. While in CIFE, he was deputed to go to London School of Economics for his post-doctoral research and obtained the first rank and a gold medal. In CIFE, he prepared a manual for studies on population dynamics of fishes, which became as a guide to numerous fisheries scientists of our country as well as those of foreign countries who were engaged in such studies. He was on deputation as a Dean to the Fisheries College and Research Institute at Tuticorin during 1991-1995. In 1995, he took over as the Director of CMFRI in March, 1995 and retired in March 1999. After his

retirement, he was as an Emeritus Scientist for 2 years at Madras Research Centre of CMFRI. He got a M.B.A. degree from Madurai Kamaraj University through correspondence course in 2002. In 2003, he moved over to his native place Nagercoil and established a Farm entitled "Lawrence Farm Retreat", 15 km away from Nagercoil. He was involved in organic farming of agriculture and fish culture till his end.

He was a tenacious and fastidious worker. He will not rest till his goal is achieved and his emotional are fulfilled. A very hard working person in the field and laboratory. I have seen him in the field, how he collected data for his doctoral thesis. He used to literally roll on the beach. His field note book used to be swollen with the sea water, blood and mucus of fishes. Later he used to enter his data in a register meticulously. He converted his drawing room into a mini-laboratory. He was not a man to rest on his laurels. He worked till the very end of his life in his own farm on organic farming.

He served as one of the faculty members in FAO/DANIDA/ICAR National Training Course on Fish Stock Assessment at CMFRI, Cochin in 1983. He was a member of the Kalawar Committee to decide on the seasonal ban on the fishing along the Kerala coast. He has visited U.K., Senegal,



Pakistan, Singapore, the Sultanate of Oman, Egypt, Iran, Malaysia, Thailand, Maldives and Sri Lanka, to participate in scientific and academic meetings. A total of 80 scientific/technical papers have been published by him in national and international journals.

A simple, affectionate and lovable person.

May his soul rest in peace

Dr. D.B.James