



Dr. M. Devaraj

- Period of Service: 1995-1999
- Designation at retirement : Director

My best memories in CMFRI

1. Some time in 1969, going through my manuscript on *Scomberomorus koreanus*, an elderly British scientist (he was a conchologist, his name I forgot) camping at Mandapam Camp, told me that one day I would become the Director of CMFRI. I was happy that he was impressed with the depth and quality of my research paper.

2. My work on fish population dynamics during 1967 -78 in CMFRI has been personally so very satisfying and gave me a sense of fulfillment. Mastery over this difficult subject gave me the will and determination to succeed in life. It is this determination that still sustains my physical and spiritual strength in my post retirement pursuit of organic farming in my own farm of about 15 acres in one of the most beautiful locations at the tip of the western ghat.

3. The self confidence I gained in CMFRI during 1967 - 78 took me to positions like Joint Director of CIFE Mumbai and Dean, Fisheries College

& Tesearch Institute, Tuticorin, and ultimately Director, CMFRI Cochin during 1995 - 99. Again, the first rank I earned in my M.Sc in the London School of Economics in 1979 - 80, I owe to my training in CMFRI.

4. As Director CMFRI, I enjoyed every movement of my life and associations with all my colleagues and friends in CMFRI. They all worked like honeybees to build excellent pieces of infrastructure at Calicut, Cochin, Vizhinjam, Tuticorin, Mandapam, Chennai and Vizakhapatnam. What a wonderful talent CMFRI has. Although I miss them, they are all in my hearts; I have many hearts, one each for everyone of them.

5. When I rose up and spoke for funds for acquisition of land in front of CMFRI headquarters from CMDA, costing about Rs.12 crore, in one of the Directors' conferences at ICAR, New Delhi, I was ridiculed by some, but Dr, R.S. Paroda, the DG allotted initially about Rs. 372 Lakhs and the money was transferred to our office. When we were about to remit the money to the CMDA, Dr. Paroda was forced to withdraw this money back, by some miscreants. For a moment I sat crestfallen . What happened to that land is there for everyone to see. We had a big mariculture infrastructure plan for this land.

6. As a research scholar, research assistant, scientist and Director in CMFRI, I gained a lot and lost nothing - my beloved colleagues and friends - foes none. I left a good legacy. I owe everything I have in my life to god almighty and the CMFRI, and the CIFE, and the FCRI, and my family.