



Dr. P.V. Ramachandran Nair

- Designation at retirement : Principal Scientist, Head of Fishery Environment Management Division and Joint Director
- Period of Service: 1956-1986

My tributes

I would begin by expressing my gratitude to Dr. Mohan Joseph Modayil, Director, CMFRI and some senior colleagues for giving me the opportunity to share my golden moments at CMFRI.

Joined as Research Assistant in 1956 in the Marine Biology & Oceanography Division of CMFRI at Mandapam, the then Headquarters with Dr. N.K. Panikkar as Director and Dr. R. Reghu Prasad as Head of Division to do the primary productivity studies in Arabian Sea and Bay of Bengal. I pay my homage to them because I owe a great deal to both of them as they were responsible for shaping my career giving right directions to my earlier research pursuits.

Introduction of radioisotope in productivity studies, marine pollution, remote sensing and guiding of a dozen people for Ph.D. were the highlights of my work. Dr. Jones and Dr. E.G. Silas as Directors aroused the potential in me for the development of the Institute. I was sent abroad to Denmark

for Marine Science and Sweden for Marine Pollution studies. I retired from the new building the inauguration of which was the climax of my career. The vote of thanks was given by me to all who was responsible for making this possible. The main architect of that achievement, Dr. E.G. Silas was sadly missing.

A Mobile Laboratory first of its kind in India in the field of marine fisheries research has been commissioned for the Central Marine Fisheries Research Institute, Cochin by Dr. Martha Vanucci mainly to carry out field-oriented investigations aimed at monitoring water quality and other environmental parameters in the aquaculture system. On the spot studies carried out in this mobile laboratory was helpful in evaluating economic feasibility of culture operations, soil conditions of the farms, seepage and engineering aspects of fish farms and similar problems. The scientists will be able to carry out quick analysis of samples collected for different investigations and come out with immediate results. The commissioning of the laboratory has considerable significance in the research and development on mariculture in the coastal areas. The laboratory was also in making 24 hr observations of ecological conditions of mud banks, estuaries, mangrove ecosystem and similar areas.

I had some very good colleagues and Personal Assistants. Dr. K.J. Joseph, Dr. V.K. Pillai, Dr. C.P. Gopinathan, Dr. V. Chandrika, Dr. K.J. Mathew (Lab-to-Land Programme), Shri V.K. Balachandran and Shri A.

Nandakumar (Technical Officers) and Personal Assistants, Smt. N.R. Letha Devi, Smt. A.K. Omana, Smt. N. Ambika. I thank all of them.

I retired as Principal Scientist, Head of Fishery Environment and Management Division and Joint Director in July 1986.

I would like to add it must be kept in mind that it is because of the work and dedication of persons like Dr. N.K. Panikkar, Dr. Jones, and Dr. S.Z. Qasim we have made such noteworthy advances in the ocean sector. I have no doubt that those who are involved in the growth and development and promotion of ocean science will continue to fulfill their dreams and expectations.

My thirty years in CMFRI was my golden period and if I have another rebirth I would still like to be part of this wonderful Institution, made more modern by the present Director, Prof. (Dr.) Mohan Joseph Modayil.