

Dr. REKHA V. R. NAIR

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Summary

The research topics in which I have an interest is nutrient management, organic farming, and soil conservation measures. The topic for the doctoral degree was the formulation of a micronutrient mixture suited for rubber plantation done at the College of Agriculture, Vellayani. The title of the thesis was “Assessment and management of micronutrients in rubber growing tracts of Thiruvananthapuram”. The master of science program was on the conversion of lignocellulose-rich elephant dung into vermicompost and assessing the efficiency of native microbes isolated from dung which was compared with proven lignocellulose degraders. I am now interested in focussing research on various soil conservation measures and mitigation practices to be adopted against soil piping and landslides.

Research Highlights

- Formulation of micronutrient mixture suited for rubber plantation
 - Vermicomposting technology for conversion of lignocellulose-rich elephant dung into nutrient-rich vermicompost
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Experience

Joined Kerala Agricultural University as Assistant Professor (Soil Science & Agricultural Chemistry) in the year 2021. I have served as a Soil Survey Officer in the Department of Soil Survey & Soil Conservation, Govt of Kerala for two years (21.11.19 to 25.08.2021), as an Agricultural officer for two years (04.11.2017 to 20.11.2019), and as Field officer in the Rubber Board for six years (17.01.2011 to 03.11.2017), before joining as Assistant Professor in Kerala Agricultural University. Through these posts, I have rendered extension services like the transfer of scientific knowledge to the farming community and boosting agricultural productivity.

Education

- Graduated in Agricultural Science from College of Agriculture, Vellayani, Kerala Agricultural University (2009)
 - Post Graduation in Soil Science & Agricultural Chemistry from College of Agriculture, Vellanikkara, Thrissur (2011)
 - Ph.D in Soil Science & Agricultural Chemistry from College of Agriculture, Vellayani, Thiruvananthapuram (2020)
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Area of Specialization

Nutrient management, organic farming, soil conservation measures

Publications

Journal Articles

1. Nair, R.V.R. and Mathew, U. 2019. Balanced nutrition on growth characters of newly replanted rubber plantation. *Green Farming: Int. J. of Applied Agricultural & Horticultural Sci.*10(2)pp. 191-195
2. Nair, R.V.R., Sunilkumar,V., and Sushama, P.K.2019. Elephant dung : A potential source for enhancement of soil health. *J. Pharmacognosy and Phytochemistry.SP(2)*pp.366-370
3. Nair, R.V.R. and Mathew, U. 2018. Fertility status of the rubber growing tracts in agroecological units of southern Kerala. *Asian J. Envnt. Sci.* 13(1&2): 26-33
4. Nair, R.V.R., Sushama, P.K, and Rajeev,T.S 2017. Naturally Degrading dung : An unexploited microbial nische for soils of Kerala. *Trends in Biosci.* 10(11); 2087-2092
5. Nair, R.V.R., Sushama, P.K., and. Sunilkumar,V 2017. A study on biotic enrichment and nutrient enhancement of elephant dung by vermi composting technique. *Trends in Biosci..* 10(34): 7236-7243
6. Nair, R.V.R. and Sushama, P.K. 2014. Environmentally sustainable composting technique of elephant dung. *Green Farming: Int. J. of Applied Agricultural & Horticultural Sci.*5(2)pp. 191-195

Popular Articles

1. Nair, R.V.R. and Sunilkumar,V. 2017. Elephant dung a best substrate for vermicompost production Kerala karshakan (FIB) English6(4):33-35
2. Nair, R.V.R and Mathew, U. 2017. Rabbarinu sameekritha valaprayogam (Malayalam) Kerala karshakan. 68-69
3. Beena V.I., Sushama P.K and Nair, R.V.R. 2015. Aanapindathil ninnum jaivavalam (Malayalam). Kalpadhenu.pp.33.
4. Nair, R.V.R., Sushama,P.K., and Jayasree Shankar,S. 2014. Aanapindam nalla jaivavalam (Malayalam). Karshakasree (Malayala Manorama)pp. 52-53

Student Guidance (Major Advisor)

M. Sc.

Outside KAU: Ongoing: 1

Other Institutional Responsibilities

1. Currently acting as student Advisor/faculty mentor to 10 Undergraduate students.