

**Dr. Beela G. K. Professor & Head, Department of Community Science ,
College of Agriculture, Vellayani, Kerala Agricultural University**

Brief Introduction

Dr. Beela G. K. is a faculty member at Kerala Agricultural University, where she has been teaching and conducting research since 1997. Between 2011 and 2016, she served as the Director of the Centre for Disability Studies, Poojapura, where she spearheaded several initiatives aimed at enhancing the well-being of people with disabilities. She is particularly known for her work in using horticulture therapy as a therapeutic tool for communities with special needs, creating integrated models that combine scientific research with philanthropic action.

Academics & Research

Dr. Beela holds a Master's, M.Phil., and Ph.D. in Child and Human Development. Her academic background, combined with her practical expertise, has made her a key figure in the development of garden-based therapeutic interventions. Her research areas include stroke Nutrition , Cognitive Nutrition, Rice Fortification , Anti cancer nutrition products Garden-based Nutrition Education, and dietary approaches for managing conditions like Attention Deficit Hyperactivity Syndrome (ADHD), Autism, and Horticultural Therapy.

She has served as the principal investigator for over 14 major research projects funded by organizations like the World Bank, the United Nations World Food Programme, Kerala Social Security Mission, State Horticultural Mission, KSCTEC, CEDS and Kerala State Planning Board. Through her ongoing work, Dr. Beela continues to bridge the gap between academic research and community-driven solutions through consultancy particularly in the fields of disability, human development, and therapeutic horticulture.

Publications /Awards /Editor

Dr. Beela has authored more than 58 scholarly articles and books, including *Horticultural Therapy* and *A Toolkit to ADHD*. She also received prestigious awards such as the John Walkers Community Service Award (2020) from the American Horticultural Therapy Association (Kansas University, USA), the INSO Women Researcher Award (2023), and the Kavungal Mahila Ratnam Award (2013). She also functions as editorial board in the reputed Indian Journal of Nutrition and Dietetics.

Extension Activities

Dr. Beela is also a resource person, frequently invited to deliver lectures and sessions on human development at prominent institutions like the Indian Institute of Space Science and Technology (IIST), IIT Delhi, IIT Kharagpur, HRDC, Kerala University Trivandrum, SAMETI (State Agricultural Management and Extension Training Institute), IMG (Institute of Management in Government), Govt Medical Colleges and several other reputed institutions.

Philanthropy

Beyond her research publications Dr. Beela is a passionate advocate for child development and the rights of women, children, and persons with disabilities. She has been instrumental in establishing therapeutic gardens for children with special needs in more than 20 schools across Kerala, bringing her innovative research into real-world applications.