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## ***Dr. Lalitha Natarajan***

**Scientist D and In Charge**  
**P2 Eri Basic Seed farm, MESSO**  
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### ***Education***

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2019	<b>PhD in Agricultural Entomology</b> Visva-Bharati University, Santiniketan, West Bengal, India
1999	<b>Masters in Agricultural Entomology</b> Kerala Agricultural University, Thrissur, Kerala, India
1993-1997	<b>Bachelors in Agriculture</b> Annamalai University, Chidambaram, Tamil Nadu, India

### ***Academic Career***

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2020- till date	Scientist D and In-charge, P2 Eri Basic Seed farm, Topatoli, Assam.	<b>Central Silk Board, MOT, India</b>
2018 -2020	Scientist D, Eri Silkworm Seed production Centre, Guwahati, Assam.	<b>Central Silk Board, MOT, India</b>
2014-2018	Scientist C, Eri Silkworm Seed production Centre, Guwahati, Assam.	<b>Central Silk Board, MOT, India</b>
2010-2014	Scientist B, Central Sericultural Research and Training Institute, Berhampore, West Bengal	<b>Central Silk Board, MOT, India</b>

**Ph.D Thesis:** Biology and feeding efficacy of *Scymnus latifolius* Poorani sp. nov. on *Paracoccus marginatus* Williams & Granara de Willink infesting Mulberry

**M.Sc. Thesis:** Resistance mechanisms against the pseudostem weevil *Odoiporus longicollis* Olivier (Coleoptera-Curculionidae) in Banana.

### ***Awards/Fellowships/Recognitions***

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- 1997** Dr.Rajah Muthiah Chettiar Silver jubilee Memorial Prize for highest mark in Plant Disease management and Gold medal, The Agricultural Association prize for highest mark in Soil Chemistry and Thiru G.Vaghesan Pillai Prize for highest mark in Agricultural Entomology during B,Sc,Ag
  - 1999** Topper of M.Sc (Ag) Batch in Kerala Agricultural University
  - 1999** Senior Research Fellow, ICAR
  - 2002** ICAR NET qualified in Agricultural Entomology.
  - 2004** Junior Research Fellow, Department of science and Technology (DST)
  - 2008** **Recipient of Women Scientist Scholarship** of DST under WOS - C Scheme
  - 2009** Recipient of Cash Award of Rs.10000/- from DST for clearing Patent agent exam of Intellectual Property Office, India

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**2009** Research Associate, ICAR

**2012** Best oral presentation award in *National workshop on Promotion of sericulture for sustainable income* held at Annamalai University, Chidambaram, India

**2019 Women Scientist Award** recipient from the executive council of Society for Biotic and Environmental research (SBER) at BIOSCON 2019,

### ***Project Associated***

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- ***Collaborative project APS 05020 MI entitled “Commercial egg production technology in ericulture for synchronization of hatching and subsequent rearing” with CMERTI, Lahdoigarh. (Associated as Principal Investigator) (Feb 22 – Jan24)***
- ***Collaborative project AIB 080009 MI entitled “Evaluation of eri silkworm populations to develop breeds/hybrids with improved productivity” with SBRL, Kodathi, Bangalore. (Associated as co- Investigator) (Mar 22 – Feb25)***
- ***Collaborative project APS 090003 MI entitled “Evaluation of Reproductive Performance of Eri Silkworm, Samia ricini (Donovan)” with SSTL, Kodathi, Bangalore. (Associated as co- Investigator) (June-22 - May24)***
- ***Institutional project PRE3508 “Studies on standardization of mass multiplication and field efficacy of Scymnus pallidicollis (Mulsant) for eco-friendly management of Tukra”- (April, 2014 - March, 2016) (Associated as Principal Investigator) (Approved in 38th RAC)***
- ***Collaborative project PPE3571 “Population interactions of pests and natural enemies in mulberry eco-system”- (Aug, 2014 - July, 2017) (Associated as Principal Investigator) (Approved in 39th RAC) with NBAIR, ICAR, Bangalore, RSRS, CSB Jorhat and RSRS, CSB, Kalimpong.***
- ***Institutional project PRE3533 “Identification of whitefly resistance in Mulberry germplasm accessions”- (March, 2015 - April, 2018) (Associated as Principal Investigator) (Approved in 40th RAC)***
- ***Collaborative Programme BPR(P)-021: “Development of weather based forecasting models for mulberry pests.” (January, 2011 - December, 2015) Associated as Co-Investigator***
- ***Project PIB 3515: “Evaluation of newly developed triploid mulberry varieties under irrigated condition.” (June, 2014 - March, 2017) Associated as Co-Investigator***
- ***Pilot Study BPP (PS) 001: “Improvement of Mulberry through in vitro mutagenesis and somaclonal variation” (July 2011- Dec 2012) (Associated as Principal Investigator)***
- ***Pilot study on BPR(PS)- 003: “Identification of DNA markers associated with bacterial leaf spot resistance in Mulberry (Morus spp.)” (April, 2013 - December, 2014) (Associated as Co Investigator)***
- ***DST funded project on Development of IPM Package for forest nursery insect pests of some economically important tree species’ in the Forest Protection Division of Institute for Forest Genetics and Tree Breeding,(2004-2005) (Associated as JRF)***
- ***NATP funded project on Integrated Pest Management practices for rhinoceros beetle and Red palm weevil on Oil Palm.(1999-2001) (Associated as SRF)***
- ***DBT funded project on Field evaluation of tissue culture derived black pepper plants (1999) (Associated as Research assistant)***
- ***TOT Programmes (3nos) – (Lab to land)(2014-15) (Associated as Principal Investigator)***

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### ***Teaching Activities***

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1. Faculty member of all structured course-PGDS affiliated to Kalyani University, Kalyani, West Bengal (2010-2015)
2. Resource person to to all non-structured courses, Skill updation programmes (SUP) courses, ISDS programmes, Scientist's refresher courses, Trainer's training programme and on job training courses (CSR&TI, CSB,Berhampore) (2010-2015)
3. Handled theory and practical classes of Entomology pertaining to **Mulberry and silkworm crop protection** and practical classes for Tissue culture techniques in mulberry for the PGDS and on job students (CSR&TI, CSB, Berhampore)
4. **Dissertation Guidance** offered to PGDS students 5 (Nos) during 2010 -2015
5. As Assistant Professor in Entomology at APAC, Vellore (TNAU affiliated college) taught Courses for B.Sc. (Ag) (during 2002)

### ***Imparting Training and Extension***

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1. **Need based / Capacity Building Training for eri seed cocoon rearers/ eri graineurs** -15 batches covering 300 beneficiaries during 2016-2021
2. Handled theory and practical classes on eri seed production to farmers from DOS Assam, Nagaland, Odisha, Sikkim, Manipur, Mizoram, Arunachal Pradesh Eri rearers and NERTPS beneficiaries
3. Handled theory and practical classes on eri seed production to PGDS Students. Exposure visit classes to UG, PG and Doctorate students.

### ***Training Undergone : 12 Nos***

#### ***Publications***

**Peer-reviewed Total N = 28** including, 18 as first author

**First description of new species (*Scymnus latifolius*); in Zootaxa**

**NCBI GenBank Database deposition - Accession no. KU512906**

**Conference proceedings : 30 Nos**

**Brochure /Leaflet :20 Nos**

**Practical Manuals :5 Nos**

**Invited talks/Lectures :4 Nos**

**Popular Articles : 10 Nos**

### ***Research Interests and present work:***

- Eri culture and its prospects. Promotion and conservation of vanya silk.
- Ecological engineering in mulberry ecosystem to conserve species diversity and enhance effectiveness of biological control of sucking pest complex.
- Mass multiplication and augmentation of biocontrol agents.