

Dr. A.P. THOMAS

Designation and official address

: Director

Advanced Centre of Environmental Studies and Sustainable Development (ACESSD)

Mahatma Gandhi University, Kottayam – 686 560

(Former Professor and Director, School of Environmental Sciences, Mahatma Gandhi University)

Academic Qualifications

: M.Sc., Ph.D. (Zoology)

Experience

Teaching experience

: 50 years

Research experience

: 38 years

Ph.D. Research Guideship

: Ph.D's. produced – 18

Areas of Research

: Environmental pollution and stress studies,
Biodiversity, Climate change studies,
Environment Management

No. of Research Projects carried out

: 6

No. of Research Papers published

: 81

Books authored/ edited

: 20

Collaborating with various national and International universities

Positions held

Professor and Director, School of Environmental Sciences, M.G. University

Dean and Member of Syndicate, M.G. University

Member of academic bodies of various Universities within Kerala and outside

Member of various government bodies

Headed various academic and professional organisations

PhD	• Zoology
Msc	• Zoology

Areas of Research			
Environmental pollution and stress studies	Climate change studies	Biodiversity	Ecology

Environmental pollution and the subsequent stress impact on fishes in the fresh water and brackish waters has been focused. Anatomical, biochemical as well as physiological stress effects are being evaluated to assess the survival status, fecundity, as well as adaptations. Physical, chemical as well as microbial stressors are considered for investigations. The pesticide pollution in cardamom hill area of Western Ghats and its environmental impacts form another area of study.

The works on climate change concentrates on green house gas emission monitoring, carbon sequestration potential with respect to soil and vegetation, variations in carbon cycle induced by anthropogenic landuse practices etc. The physico-chemical and biological factors of soil and their role in soil respiration and carbon flux form important aspects of investigations. Climate change mitigation and adaptation strategies especially in the area of agriculture and public health are also looked into.

Biodiversity constitutes a thrust area of ecological studies. Assessing the thrust parameters of diversity is an area of growing importance. In the light of climate change and habitat changes a pioneer study on earthworms in Kerala and Western Ghats has been started that led to important findings. Earthworm taxonomy which was in a dormant stage for the last one century has been restarted and excellent collection of samples has been completed for over thousand locations in about 350 sites. Earthworm biology and the role of earthworm as indicators of pollution as well as their role in soil nutrient enrichment are considered with respect to various agricultural practices.