

CURRICULUM VITAE OF A.R.K.SASTRY

1. **Full Name** : ADDALA RAMA KRISHNA SASTRY
(ARK Sastry)

2. **Age & Date of Birth** : 74 Years, 19th January, 1938

3. **Educational Qualifications** :
 - i) M.Sc. (Botany)
 - ii) Certificate course in Remote Sensing Techniques from NRSA, Hyderabad
 - iii) Training Certificate course in Land use planning and Remote sensing techniques – Aberdeen University, U.K.

4. **Positions held** :
 - i) Joint Director, Botanical Survey of India, Calcutta (Ministry of Environment & Forests, Government of India, New Delhi)

 - ii) Director, Biodiversity Conservation and Forestry Programmes, WWF-India, New Delhi from October 1995 to March 2001.

5. **Research Experience** :
 - Extensive & intensive botanical studies of the vegetation, flora of Madhya Pradesh, Western Ghats, Subansiri District in Arunachal Pradesh, Khasi Hills in Meghalaya and Andaman Islands during my service in Botanical Survey of India in various circles during the years 1961 to 1995.

 - Published papers on the floristics, phytogeography and vegetation of these regions.

 - As Ecologist in the Headquarters of the Botanical Survey of India (BSI) at Calcutta, undertaken extensive field surveys in the coastal and mangrove areas of Indian coast and published several papers on the Ecological aspects of Indian coastal vegetation. Published a monograph on the Mangroves and on the Plant diversity and ecology of the coastal ecosystems.

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- Worked as Project Co-ordinator in the US-Fish & Wildlife Service funded Project on Threatened and Endangered Plants of India during the years 1980-1985. Published several papers on the threatened and endangered plants of India. These are the firsthand reports on the subject for Indian flora.
- The above project data paved the way for publication of three volumes of **Red Data Books of Indian Plants**, Volumes 1 – 3 (editors M.P.Nayar and ARK Sastry) during the years 1987-1990 by the Botanical Survey of India and have been acclaimed by several international organizations like IUCN.
- As Joint Director, Head Quarters, BSI, Calcutta, I was in-charge of scientific publications of Botanical Survey of India and edited many books and journals. Was one of the Editors of *Flora of India – Introductory Volume* (Vol.1, 2000, BSI, Calcutta).
- Published about 75 research papers in reputed botanical journals.
- Authored/Edited about 15 books pertaining to Indian floristics, vegetation, ecology, taxonomy and on rare and endangered plants of India.
- Authored the books : *Identification Manual for Indian Mangroves; Diversity of Coastal Plant Communities in India*, jointly with L.K.Banerjee et al. BSI ENVIS Centre.
- *Rhododendrons in India : Floral and foliar splendour of the Himalayan flora* being the latest one published in October, 2009.
- Discovered 10 new plant records (genera and species) for Indian flora which were earlier not recorded from Indian region.
- Worked as Director-in-charge of Biodiversity Conservation Programmes namely Biodiversity Hotspots Conservation Programme (BHCP) funded by the Mac Arthur Foundation, Chicago, USA and Biodiversity Conservation Prioritisation Programme (BCPP) funded by the Biodiversity Support Programme, Washington, DC., USA and also Forestry Programmes of WWF-India, New Delhi during the years 1996-2001. These programmes helped conservation of species, landscapes and ecosystems in different parts of India.

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- Orchids and Medicinal Plants Conservation was done with peoples' cooperation and training imparted to tribal societies in Arunachal Pradesh.
- Published three books on the traditional knowledge systems of conserving natural forest ecosystems in relation to agriculture and forestry by the Apathani tribe in Arunachal Pradesh.
- Published two large volumes entitled "**Setting Priorities for biodiversity conservation in India**" (Eds. Shekhar Singh, ARK Sastry and others, WWF-India, New Delhi, 2001) as outcome of the BCPP Project.
- **Rhododendrons in India: Floral and Foliar splendour of the Himalayan Flora** .. A detailed taxonomic account of Indian rhododendrons .A.R.K.Sastry and P.k.Hajra, 2009. BS Publications, Hyderabad.

Honours and Awards received:

- i) Was awarded merit increment by the Department of Science & Technology, Govt. of India, New Delhi for scientific work in the BSI in the year 1978.
- ii) First recipient of Visisht Vygyanik Puraskar (Distinguished Scientist Award) from the Ministry of Environment & Forests, GoI, New Delhi in the year 1993.
- iii) Was a Member of the Plant Specialist Committee of Indian Sub continent of the IUCN for the years 1985 to 1987.
- iv) Was a Member of the Research Advisory Council, Tropical Botanical Gardens and Research Institute (TBGRI), Trivandrum during the years : 2002 to 2009.

- v) Principal Investigator, DST, Govt. of India, awarded Project on Indian Rhododendrons during the years : 2004 to 2006.

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Visits Abroad:

Visited the US Herbaria and Botanical Gardens / Research Institutions at Smithsonian Institution, US National Botanical Garden and Conservatory, Washington DC; Arnold Arboretum & Herbarium, Boston; New York Botanical Garden & Herbarium; Indiana University; Chicago Natural History Museum; Berkeley University and Botanical Garden, Sanfrancisco; Desert Botanical Garden, Phoenix; St. Louis Botanical Garden; Royal Botanical Gardens & Herbaria at London and Edinburgh, U.K.; Hong Kong Botanical Institute; Singapore National University and Botanical Garden; UNDP Office, Bangkok and Bali-Indonesia for scientific work and International conferences.

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