

Dr Sudha Nair majored in Botany and was awarded a doctorate in Microbial Biotechnology in the year 1990. She served at the M S Swaminathan Research Foundation for close to 20 years and stepped down in 2011 as a Senior Director. While at MSSRF she gained experience in managing diverse projects in the area of integrated natural resources management with specific focus on taking appropriate S&T interventions for sustainable rural development and livelihoods in on-farm, off-farm and non-farm areas.

She has been very active in the area of Gender Equity through Science & Technology (GEST) over the last 25 years and has been part of various initiatives of UNDP, UNESCO, UN for Women and has been part of impact assessments both at National and International levels. She has served as a member for the Gender Advisory Board of the UN Commission for Science and Technology for Development and as an Executive Board member of the Organization for Women in Science for the Developing World, Asia Pacific Region. She serves on several committees of Department of Science and Technology and Department of Biotechnology under the Ministry of Science and Technology, Govt. of India and other Independent Organizations and NGO's.

She has served as the convenor of the Golden Jubilee Biotech Park for Women right from its conceptualization in 1997 and been a key member in the setting this 'first of the kind' Park, which promotes women entrepreneurship in the life science sector and as Board member as its founder member until May 2020 and served as the CEO for some time. She also was instrumental in setting up a BioNest facility in the Park

She has several publications and has guided Ph.D scholars. She is a recipient of several awards like the Young National Bioscientist Award (2001), Prof B D Tilak Award (2006), the Jawaharlal Nehru Birth Centenary Award (2009) among several other honors.

Her current interests include livelihood transformations using S&T options, integrated natural resources management as part of improving ecosystem

health, focus on women empowerment and innovative start ups in the area of Food and Nutrition and Health sector. Strongly believe in the self reliance modle for the growth of the Nation.