



Dr. Anitha Karun has 30 years of experience in the field of Horticulture Biotechnology and contributed to the development of many tissue and organ culture protocols and cryopreservation protocols in palms and cocoa. She completed her professional degree courses B. Sc (Agri.), M. Sc (Agri.) in Horticulture and Ph.D (Horticulture) from the University of Agricultural Sciences, Bangalore. She started her career as Assistant Professor in Horticulture at Kerala Agriculture University in 1988 and was subsequently selected to Agricultural Research Service in 1990. She is working at ICAR-Central Plantation Crops Research Institute, Kasaragod since 1991 and selected as Head, Division of Crop Improvement in 2012. She was appointed as Director (Acting) of ICAR-CPCRI from January 2019. She had undergone international training programme on molecular biology at University of Adelaide, South Australia in 1995. She has been awarded 'ICAR Award for Team Research' for the biennium 1999-2000' for her major contribution in germplasm exchange of coconut in the form of embryos for the first time in the world. She is also the recipient of The best arecanut scientist for the Biennium 2013-14 by Indian Society for plantation crops for the outstanding contribution in the field of arecanut biotechnology research. As a country expert in the field of embryo culture and cryopreservation, she had visited South Korea, the Philippines, Thailand, Sri Lanka and El Salvador (Central America). She has published more than 225 research papers in leading national and international Journals, 2 books and 21 book chapters and three technical bulletins and has guided 6 Ph. D and 45 M.Sc students. Three of her technologies viz., arecanut tissue culture, coconut embryo culture and cryopreservation of coconut pollen, have been commercialized.