

Dr. Nisha Lekshmi. V
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RARS, Pilicode

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Summary

A trained field Entomologist working on integrated pest management and biological control, which started as part of the master and doctoral research programmes at the Indian Agricultural Research Institute, New Delhi. I have a decade of experience teaching and guiding graduate and postgraduate students in Agricultural and Medical Entomology. The research at KAU includes pest management in coconut, cashew, rice, vegetables, and mass production of biocontrol agents. Regularly interact with the farming community, providing diagnostic recommendations and being a resource person for entomological seminars and training.

Research highlights

- Established a *Trichogramma* (egg-parasitoid) mass production unit at RARS Pilicode, Kasargod for North Kerala.

Experience

- Assistant Professor in Entomology- Department of Medical Education, Kerala (2014- 2021)
- Assistant Professor in Entomology- Kerala Agricultural University (2021)

Education

- BSc Agriculture Kerala Agricultural University Thrissur
- MSc Entomology Indian Agricultural Research Institute New Delhi
- PhD Entomology Indian Agricultural Research Institute New Delhi

Area of specialization

Insect Pest management and biological control in Vegetables, Coconut and Cashew.

Research projects

Project Investigator

- Strengthening the *Trichogramma* mass production units of Kerala- NETWORK MODE- Kerala State Planning Board -2023-25

Co- P. I.

- Training on biofertilizers, bio-input production and nursery operations- Kerala State Planning Board - 2021-23
- Development of D X T hybrid varieties of coconut at RARS, Pilicode- Kerala State Planning Board, 2021-23
- Network Project on Screening of environment friendly attractants and repellents for the management of red palm weevil in coconut- Kerala State Planning Board, 2022-24
- Characterization and evaluation of coconut ecotypes of Kerala- Kerala State Planning Board, 2022-24
- Fortification of Agri-tourism at RARS Pilicode through diversifying extension activities and strengthening agriculture and allied sectors - Kerala State Planning Board 2024-25

Associate

- Entomological experimental trials under All India Co-ordinated Research Project on Cashew-2023 onwards

Publications

Research article

1. Lekshmi, N. V. and Manjusha, A.V. M. 2025. Efficacy of natural products against tea mosquito bug (*Helopeltis* spp.) in cashew (*Anacardium occidentale* L.) based farming system. *Indian Journal of Agricultural Sciences*. [Accepted]

- Lekshmi, N. V., Sharma R. K. and Sinha S. R. 2016. Crop diversification for sustainable insect pest management in Bitter gourd (*Momordica charantia*). *Annals of Plant Protection Sciences*, 24(2): 240-245.
- Lekshmi, N. V., R. K. Sharma, S. R. Sinha and Kirti Sharma. 2016. Efficacy of combined application of insecticides and protein attractant against *Bemisia tabaci* and *Bactrocera cucurbitae* in bitter gourd. *Journal of Eco-friendly Agriculture* 11(2): 120-127.
- Lekshmi, N. V., R. K. Sharma, S. R. Sinha and Kirti Sharma. 2014. Pest succession and population dynamics of major pests & natural enemies in bitter gourd, *Momordica charantia* L. in different planting systems. *Indian Journal of Entomology*, 76(4): 303-307.
- Lekshmi, N. V., R. K. Sharma and Kirti Sharma. 2011. Occurrence of natural enemies and economics in IPM components for organic farming in Brinjal. *Annals of Plant Protection Sciences*, 17(2): 266-271

Abstracts

- Lekshmi, N. V and Krishnan, A. 2025. Diversity of Pollinators in Cashew and Influence of weather parameters. 37th Kerala Science Congress, 7-10 February 2025, Thrissur, Kerala
- Lekshmi, N. V., R. K. Sharma, S.R. Sinha and K. Sharma (2019). Field screening of bitter gourd genotypes against melon fruit fly *Bactrocera cucurbitae* (Coquillet). International Conference on Sustainable Agricultural Production for Food, Livelihood and nutritional security: A challenge for Asian farmers, 25-27 September, 2019, Thailand.
- Lekshmi, N. V., R. K. Sharma and Kirti Sharma (2011) Management of major insect pests in Brinjal with organic pest management components. *Journal of Insect Science*, 24 (Special issue): 68-74 IF 4.72
- Lekshmi, N. V., R. K. Sharma and Kirti Sharma (2011) Management of major insect pests in Brinjal with organic pest management components. Oral presentation: 3rd Congress on Insect Science, 18-20 April 2011, Ludhiana, India.

Book Chapter

- Lekshmi, N. V. (2023). *Jaivakeedaniyanthranathile mithrangal*. In: Saphalam, RARS Farm Carnival Smaranika 2023, 41-43 pp.
- Lekshmi, N. V. and Leena M. K (2022). Pests of Coconut and their management. In: Compendium on coconut. Kerala Agricultural University, Vellanikkara, Thrissur, 175-228pp.

Popular article

- Lekshmi, N. V. (2020) Entomological surveillance for protecting public health from mosquito-borne diseases, *AgriAllis- a monthly e-newsletter*, 2(3): 28-34pp

Leaflets/ Booklets/ Manuals

- Lekshmi, N. V., and Leena M. K. 2024. "Thengile keedangal"- Booklet on pests of Coconut, Premier Printers, Payyanur, 12p.
- Lekshmi, N. V. 2024. "Jaivaniyanthranathile mithrangal"- Leaflet on Allies in Organic pest management. Pakkanar Printers, Cheruvathur.
- Lekshmi, N. V., Meera Manjusha A. V., Amal, R. and Akash, K. B. 2024. Kasumavile roga-keeda niyanthranamarganagal"- eaflet on Cashew Pest and disease management. All India Coordinated Research Project in Cashew.
- Lekshmi, N. V. 2024. "Trichogramma enna mithram"- Leaflet on Trichogramma, Kerala State Planning Board, Premier Printers, Payyanur, 4p.
- Lekshmi, N. V., Joseph, C., Sindhu R. V. and Leena M. K. 2022. "Jaiva upadhikal-lakhuvivaranam"- Training Manual on Bio-Input Preparation, Neelima Printers, Trikaripur, 24p.
- Rajan, R., Lekshmi, N. V., Leena M. K., Balan, S. and Rajeshkumar P. P. 2023. "Thengile krishireethikalum keeds-roga niyanthrana margangalum". All India Coordinated Research Project in Coconut. 16p.

Student Guidance (Major Advisor)

M. Sc. - 1 (Thesis submitted); 2 (ongoing)

Other institutional responsibilities

- Associate Public Relations Officer of RARS Pilicode

- Member of Multi-Disciplinary Diagnostic Team
- Member of the Internal Complaints Committee

Membership in Professional Associations

Life member of

- Association for Advancement of Entomology

