

Brief Profile

**Dr. Ravishankar Thupalli,
M.Sc., Ph. D., F.E.S.**

Dr. Ravishankar Thupalli is a forestry specialist and community based biodiversity management and development expert. He has over 30 years of experience in India and in the Asia and Pacific region in supporting and scaling-up community-led extension processes, advocacy of sustainable management of forest biodiversity including mangroves, fisheries and traditional agriculture, co-ordination and facilitation of planning and implementation teams. Dr. Ravishankar works as a regular International Consultant for FAO of the UN, UNDP, ADB, UNEP and CFC and is a specialist in developing GEF Projects.

Dr. Ravishankar works in India, The Maldives, Sri Lanka, Myanmar, Nepal, Bhutan, Indonesia and Bangladesh in Asia and in Vanuatu, Solomon Islands, Fiji and Apia in the Pacific on disaster impact and needs assessment, rehabilitation of mangrove wetlands altered by cyclonic storms and tsunami and biodiversity conservation and management including medicinal plants. Provides technical advice and directly supervises implementation of projects on forest rehabilitation and coastal shelterbelts with timber species and mangroves and fruit tree planting in home gardens to support community livelihoods and coastal protection in tsunami affected areas, particularly in Maldives. He has developed medium and long term strategies and forest policy for forest rehabilitation and management by liaising with UN and international agencies and banking institutions in the country of work and international donor agencies.

Dr. Ravishankar has worked on community mobilized mangrove management in Andhra Pradesh, Odisha and West Bengal states which included training and capacity building of stakeholders and gender mainstreaming in conservation and management for better livelihood. Mobilized a team and developed policy framework on Joint Mangrove Management.

Dr. Ravishankar is well experienced in documentation, verification and application of ethno-botanical methods on edible, medicinal plant resources and on REDD Plus. Dr. Ravishankar did his Doctoral and Post Doctoral work in documentation and application of ethno-botanical methods of plant species used in food, medicine and material value and NTFP resources used by tribal communities of Andhra Pradesh, Tamil Nadu, Kerala and Karnataka states in India. Developed IPR data base on plant species for developing a *sui generis* system. Possess knowledge in micro-credit based natural resource management through Self Help Groups.

Dr. Ravishankar holds a Ph. D in Ethnobotany of Northern Andhra Pradesh from Botanical Survey of India **and Post Doctoral work in documenting Ethnobotanical data on plant species** used in food, medicine and material value and NTFP resources used by tribal communities of Andhra Pradesh, Tamil Nadu, Kerala and Karnataka states in India. He has worked as guest faculty teaching Assistant Conservators of Forests at State Forest Service College, Coimbatore, India.

Dr. Ravishankar is a recipient of young scientist award and is a member of several national and international professional bodies. Dr. Ravishankar has participated and presented papers in international conferences in 23 countries and has over 80 publications which includes Research Papers in National and International Journals, books and several abstracts and national and international country reports till today.

Presently Dr. Ravishankar is supporting the United Nations Intergovernmental Science Policy Platform on Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services (UN IPBES) as Lead Author in the Regional Assessment of Biodiversity and Ecosystem services and on the thematic assessment of Land Degradation and Restoration Assessment in the Asia Pacific.