

Ashish Alex

Doctoral Graduate Research Assistant
School of Forest Resources
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Education

PhD, Forestry (2019 – present)

School of Forest Resources, University of Maine (UMaine), Orono, United States
Dissertation: Harvesting productivity, logistics and carbon emission of predominant timber harvesting systems
Advisor: Dr. Anil Raj Kizha

MSc, Forestry (2012-2014)

Forest Management & Utilization, Kerala Agricultural University (KAU), Kerala, India.

Thesis: Dependence on non-timber forest products for the sustainable livelihood enhancement of the tribals of Western Attappady.

Advisor: Dr. K. Vidyasagaran.

GPA: 8.56/10

- Conducted surveys and worked for 2 months with the indigenous communities to know about their culture

BSc, Forestry (2008 – 2012)

Kerala Agricultural University (KAU), Kerala, India.

Thesis: A study on *Balanophora fungosa* subspecies indica.

Advisor: Dr. K. Vidyasagaran,

GPA: 7.79/10

Work Experience

Graduate Research Assistant (August 2019 – present)

UMaine, Orono, United States

- Conducted detailed time and motion studies
- Statistical and Geospatial analysis

Project Fellow (April 2018 – April 2019)

National Medicinal Plants Board, Regional-cum-facilitation center, Southern Region, Kerala Forest Research Institute (KFRI), Peechi, Kerala, India.

- Organizing committee member for three regional workshops.

Lecturer (July 2015 – July 2016)

College of Forestry, KAU, India

- Teaching: Theory and practical classes, field trips, assignments, examinations, and evaluations
- Courses:
 - *Forest Ecology, Biodiversity & Conservation* (Class strength: 30): Levels of biological organization, forest environment major biotic and abiotic components and their interactions, nutrient cycling, food webs, ecological pyramids, succession, distribution of life forms, measurement of diversity, methods of conservation.
 - *Forest Pathology* (Practical classes): Familiarization of forest pathology laboratory equipment, familiarization of general symptoms of forest diseases (field visits), preparation of MS medium, familiarization of common fungicides, and mushroom cultivation (visit).
 - *Forest Recreation, Landscape Architecture and Urban Forestry* (Class strength: 30): Forest recreation scope, components, social and environmental aspects, Principles and practices of landscaping, landscape designs, tools and implements for landscaping, urban forestry scope and management
 - *Forest Protection* (Class strength: 29): Injurious agencies: Man, fire, encroachment, forest weeds and weed management.
 - *Utilization of Non-timber Forest Products* (Class strength: 29): Different types on non-timber forest products available, collection methods and processing.
 - *Environmental Management* (Class strength: 29): Ecosystems, ecological pyramids, social interactions, environmental hazards to rivers, forests, and mountains, pollution control and prevention, renewable and non-renewable sources of energy, environmental issues, acid rains, ozone layer depletion, desertification, global warming, ocean pollution.

Research Assistant (January – July 2015)

Kerala Agricultural University

Project: Strengthening Research on Nutmeg

Funding agency: Government of Kerala, India

Publications

Peer reviewed articles

- **Alex A**, Vidyasagaran K. 2018. Non timber forest products-based livelihood among the tribal communities of Western Ghats, Kerala. *International Journal of Agricultural Sciences*, 10(5): 5240- 5245.
- **Alex A**, Vidyasagaran K. 2017. The hosts, anatomy and utilization of the commercially exploited parasitic herb *Balanophora fungosa* var. *indica* in the Western Ghats region of Kerala, India. *The Bioscan*, 12 (3): 1569-1574.
- **Alex A**, Vidyasagaran K, Prema A, Santhoshkumar AV. 2016. Analyzing the Livelihood Opportunities among the Tribes of the Western Ghats in Kerala. *Studies on Tribes and Tribals*, 14(1): 11-17.
- **Alex A**, Vidyasagaran K, Geethakutty PS. 2016. Gender dimensions in NTFP collection among the indigenous communities of Western ghats of India. *International Journal of Forest Usufructs Management*. 17 (1): 24-32.
- **Alex A**, Vidyasagaran K, Gopakumar S. 2016. Analyzing the Cultural Utilities of Non- Timber Forest Products (NTFP's) among the Tribes of Western Attappady in Kerala. *Journal of Human Ecology*, 56(3): 328-334.
- **Alex A**, Vidyasagaran K. 2016. The marketing of non-timber forest products in the western ghats region of Attappady, Kerala. *Economic Affairs* 61(3): 355-363.
- **Alex A**, Kizha AR. 2020. Economic feasibility of semi-mechanized harvesting in small-scale forest operations. Small-scale Forestry (in preparation).

Other publications

- Sasidharan N, Sujanapal P, Chandrasehara UM, Chacko KC, **Alex A**, Manjunatha S, Chiranjeevi P, Dantas KJ, Sumod M, Rekha G, Andia JD. 2019. A guide on prioritized medicinal plants for southern region of India. Kerala Forest Research Institute, India.
- **Alex A**, Vidyasagaran K. 2017. Attappady: Vanavum Adivasi jeevithavum our padanam (Malayalam). Shastragathi February (Malayalam).
- Raj NM, Chandran PS, Vikram HC, Adarsh CK, **Alex A**, Deepa ET, Philip M. 2015. Unique germplasm in nutmeg. Kerala Agricultural University.
- Vidyasagaran K, **Alex A**, Narayanan A. 2014. Theenicha valarthal vijayikunna karshika samrambham (Malayalam). Kerala Agricultural University.

Presentations

- **Alex A**, Kizha AR. 2021. Estimating the cost and break-even point of a small-scale timber harvesting operation. UMaine Student Symposium (virtual) April 16.

- **Alex A**, Kizha AR. 2020. Timber harvesting costs associated with commercial thinning. Society of American Foresters National Convention (virtual) October 30.
- **Alex A**, Kizha AR. 2020. Equipment selection: a bridge between financial feasibility and productivity for small woodland owners. UMaine Student Symposium (virtual) October 2.
- Kizha AR, **Alex A**, George AK, Louis LT. 2020. Cost of harvesting small-diameter trees: comparing semi-mechanized and mechanized harvesting operation. Society of American Foresters National Convention. Providence, RI. October 30.
- **Alex A**, Vidyasagaran K. 2015. Utilization and marketing of medicinal plants among the indigenous communities of Western Attappady. National Seminar on Medicinal Plants in Primary Healthcare organized by Department of Botany, Sree Narayana College, Kannur, Kerala, India. September 29-30.
- **Alex A**, Vidyasagaran K. 2015. Dependence on non-timber forest products (NTFP) among tribals of Western Attappady. National seminar on conservation for livelihood. Kerala Forest Department. Thiruvananthapuram, Kerala, India. April 18.

Articles reviewed

- **Asian Journal of Environment & Ecology**. Residents' dependency on forest resources: a study of Ratargul freshwater swamp forest of Bangladesh (Manuscript ID: MS_AJEE_60434). Review completed on August 11, 2020.
- **Asian Journal of Research in Agriculture and Forestry**. 'Trigona honey home industry development for economic recovery in the time of covid 19 pandemic (A case study in North Lombok West Nusa Tenggara, Indonesia)'. Manuscript ID: MS_AJRAF_62954. Review completed on November 12, 2020.
- **International Journal of Environment and Climate Change**. 'Environmental perception on extent of awareness during covid-19 environment and effects among the rural mass (Manuscript ID: Ms_IJECC_66422). Review completed on March 8, 2021.

Relevant Courses Taken

Timber Harvesting, Forest Management Problems, Advanced Forest Measurements and Models, Research Methods in Forest Resources, Forest management and utilization, Forest Mensuration, Forest Ecology, Silviculture and Agroforestry, Forest Economics, Forest Pathology, Forest Entomology, Forestry Extension, Forest Engineering, Tree physiology and Breeding, Wood science, Soil science, Wildlife Biology, Statistics, Geographical Information System

Awards

- Spring grant award, graduate student government, University of Maine, March

23, 2021.

- SFI E-summit Scholarship, SFI E-summit growing solutions, October 22, 2020.
- StringBio 2019. Florida International University, Miami, FL. November 16, 2019.

Training/Workshop/Seminars attended

- Learn how assigning data and maps can help engage students in research learning, Center for Innovation in Teaching and Learning, UMaine, March 2021
- Career center workshop. Office of International Programs. UMaine, Orono. March 2021
- H-1B Visa workshop. Office of International Programs. UMaine, Orono. March 2021
- Curricular practical training. Office of International Programs. UMaine, Orono. November 2020
- Writing a research abstract. Fogler Library, UMaine, March 2020
- Publish or perish. Fogler Library, UMaine, March 2020
- R- basics workshop. Fogler Library, UMaine, Orono. September 2019
- Road building toolbox. Master logger certification program. Standish, ME. October 2019
- Citation Manager: Zotero. Fogler Library, UMaine, Orono. November 2019
- Citation Manager: Mendely. Fogler Library, UMaine, Orono. November 2019
- Grants workshop. Fogler Library, UMaine, Orono. December 2019
- Concur travel training. UMaine, Orono, September 20, 2019
- Remote sensing and GIS tools for natural resource management, Kerala Agricultural University, March 19-23, 2016.
- Introduction to statistical package for social sciences (SPSS), conducted by the Department of wildlife science, College of Forestry, KAU, September 15-16, 2015.
- Orientation workshop on gender perspectives in forest management and biodiversity conservation, Organized by Centre for gender studies in agriculture & farm entrepreneurship development, February 1st 2014.
- 25th Kerala Science Congress, organized by Kerala state council for science, technology and education, January 29 – February 1st 2013.
- State level workshop on ‘Protection of geographical indications: opportunities and legal paths’ Kerala Agricultural University, March 13th 2013.
- Hands-on experience in apiculture and value addition of honey. College of Forestry, KAU, January – May 2012.
- Training program on utilization of e-resources in agriculture, Central Library, Kerala Agricultural University, December 12th 2012.
- Seminar on ‘Biodiversity’, Kerala Agricultural university, January 25th, 2011.

Certificate programs

- Remote sensing, geographical information system & global navigation satellite system. Indian Institute of Remote Sensing, Indian Space Research Organization, Off-campus outreach certificate program. August – November 2015
- Indian Space Research Organization, Indian Institute of Remote Sensing, Off-campus outreach certificate program. ‘Geospatial technologies for urban planning’ February- March 2016

Software

- R studio (version 1.2.1335)
- ArcGis Pro (version 2.4.19948)

Membership in professional organizations

- Society of American Foresters
- International Society of Tropical Foresters
- Council of Forest Engineering

Synergetic activities

- Judge: Umaine student symposium, April 2021
- Kizha AR, Louis LT, George AK, **Alex A.** Thinking to Fly. Shamrock 4.0, Placement Cell, College of Forestry, Kerala Agricultural University, May 2020. Webinar
- Judge: Umaine student symposium, October 2020.
- Participated in writing groups, organized by graduate school summer and fall 2020.
- Soccer team member, College of Forestry, KAU. 2011.
- Volunteer: Inter Agricultural University Sports and Games Meet, Kerala. Indian Council of Agricultural Research. February 2011.
- Student Editor. *Silver Dreams*. Silver jubilee magazine for the College of Forestry, KAU, India. 2012.

References

Dr. Anil Raj Kizha.
Assistant Professor of Forest Operations
School of Forest Resources
University of Maine, Orono
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Dr. K. Vidyasagaran
Dean
College of Forestry
Kerala Agricultural University
Kerala, India.

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