



Dr. Coluthur Gopalan was born in Salem on October 29, 1918. He grew up in Madras and had a brilliant academic career, first at Christian College high School and then at Madras Medical College. He obtained his M.D. in General Medicine from Madras University in 1943. He was awarded a Nuffield Foundation Scholarship in 1946, the first Indian to receive the award. He travelled to the U.K. where he completed his Ph.D. in Nutrition at London in just two and a half years.

On his return, he was appointed in 1949 as Deputy Director of the Nutrition Research Laboratories (NRL), Coonoor. Dr. Gopalan was appointed Director a few years later, and went on to build up NRL into a holistic research institution. NRL grew in stature, attracted talented scientists and produced valuable research findings, which gained national and international recognition. In 1969, it was named the National Institute of Nutrition. In 1973, Dr. C. Gopalan was appointed Director General of the Indian Council of Medical Research (ICMR). Dr. Gopalan's research into protein-caloric malnutrition created a new perspective among researchers. His studies in kwashiorkor and marasmus were path-breaking contributions. His papers on conditions caused by food toxins, particularly lathyrism, led to major policy changes by the Government of India. His studies on lactation and anaemia in women and on stunting and wasting in children were noteworthy. In later years, the emerging trends towards overnutrition (overweight and obesity) alongside the older problem of under nutrition, drew his attention. After Dr. Gopalan retired in 1978, he set up the Nutrition Foundation of India (NFI), a not-for-profit institution in New Delhi so as to continue with his life's work in nutrition research. Dr. Gopalan was the recipient of several honours and awards. He was a Fellow of the Royal Society (FRS). He was awarded the Padma Bhushan in 2003. Apart from numerous other recognitions, he was a Fellow of all three Indian Academy of Sciences and of several foreign ones as well. As recently in the year 2019, the Federation of Asian Nutrition Societies (FANS) awarded him a Living Legend Award. As researcher, mentor and institution builder, Dr. C. Gopalan made tremendous contributions to Nutrition Science in India.

**B. Sc., FSN
M. Sc., FN
Students**

Coluthur Gopalan Endowment was created in the academic year 2020 with the aim to promote research and development activities in the field of Nutrition Science which includes Food Science, Clinical Nutrition and Community Nutrition. Endowment amount of Rs.1,00,000

was deposited into the bank and sponsored by students of Food Science and Nutrition (2017-20; 2018-21 Batch). Every Year Eminent Personality in the field of Food Science and Nutrition will be invited to deliver the Lecture to promote scientific information exchange among the students.



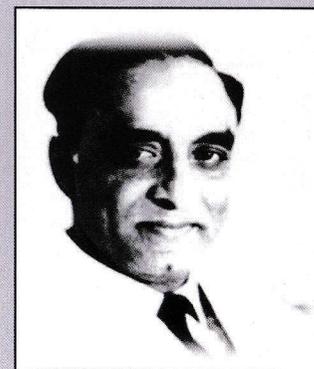
Dr. N.G.P. ARTS AND SCIENCE COLLEGE

(An Autonomous Institution, Affiliated to Bharathiar University, Coimbatore)
Approved by Government of Tamil Nadu & Accredited by NAAC with 'A++' Grade (3rd Cycle - 3.64 CGPA)
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COLUTHUR GOPALAN FIFTH ENDOWMENT LECTURE

on

TACKLING THE HIDDEN HUNGER THROUGH BIOFORTIFICATION AND FOOD FORTIFICATION IN BANANA



Organized by

**DEPARTMENT OF FOOD SCIENCE
AND NUTRITION**

**Date : 26.02.2026
Venue : Kambar Arangam
Time: : 11.00 am**

Handwritten signature and date: 26/2/2026

CHIEF GUEST



Dr. S. Backiyarani

**Principal Scientist
Crop Improvement Division
ICAR-NRC for Banana
Trichy**

Dr. S. Backiyarani is a distinguished horticultural scientist and Principal Scientist at ICAR–National Research Centre for Banana (NRCB), Tiruchirappalli, with over 30 years of significant contributions to plant breeding, genomics, and crop biotechnology. A Gold Medalist in Ph.D. (Plant Breeding & Genetics) from Tamil Nadu Agricultural University and a recipient of prestigious fellowships including CSIR and DBT, she has demonstrated sustained academic excellence and impactful translational research.

Her research centers on the genetic improvement of banana and small cardamom through the integration of conventional breeding, molecular markers, transcriptomics, proteomics, and genome editing. She has contributed to the release of 10 improved varieties—three in small cardamom and seven in banana—and developed 24 improved banana progenies with enhanced resistance to biotic stresses and superior fruit quality. She has also facilitated the registration of 10 genetic stocks and contributed to the formulation of DUS guidelines for banana, strengthening varietal protection and germplasm management systems.

Dr. Backiyarani has led and co-led 42 research projects, securing over ₹13.99 crores in competitive funding from agencies such as DBT, DST, NABARD, SERB, and CGIAR. Her scholarly record includes more than 97 peer-reviewed publications, with 1,575 citations and an h-index of 23. She has also developed molecular databases and bioinformatics-enabled breeding tools to accelerate banana improvement.

An accomplished mentor, she has guided 24 postgraduate students and received 42 awards and fellowships, including the Outstanding Agricultural Scientist Award and IAHS Fellowship. Her work has substantially strengthened India's horticultural biotechnology landscape.

Programme

- Prayer Song : **Department Choir**
- Welcome Address : **Dr. D. Sridevi**
Professor & Head, Department of Food Science & Nutrition
- Presidential Address : **Dr. Nalla G Palaniswami**
Chairman & Managing Director
KMCH Coimbatore
- Dr. Thavamani D Palaniswami**
Secretary
Dr. N.G.P. Arts and Science College
- Chief Guest Address : **Dr. S. Backiyarani**
Principal Scientist
ICAR – NRCB
Trichy
- Felicitation : **Dr. Arun N Palaniswami**
Trustee, Dr. NGPRET
- Mrs. Mathura V Palaniswami**
Trustee, Dr. NGPRET
- Dr. O.T. Buvanewaran**
Chief Executive Officer, Dr. NGPRET
- Dr. P. R. Muthuswamy**
Director Academics
Dr. NGP Educational Institutions
- Dr. S. Saravanan**
Principal
Dr. N.G.P. Arts and Science College
- Vote of Thanks : **Ms. Anjali M**
Assistant Professor in Food Science & Nutrition
- National Anthem : **Department Choir**