Dr. Nisha. M.S
Associate Professor,
Department of Agricultural Entomology
College of Agriculture
Padannakkad
amail a pisha das @kay in

email: nisha.das @kau.in

Phone No. 8547432308; 9447026230



## **Summary**

Research area of interest on biological control of plant parasitic nematodes started from my PhD work as part of National Agricultural Technology Programme on "Mass production and field evaluation of bioagents for the eco-friendly management of nematodes associated with vegetables" in which I have standardized the application of biofortified farmyard manure using nematode egg parasitic fungi, *Pochonia chlamydosporia* and *Purpureocillium lilacinum* for the management of root-knot nematode in coleus, *Solenostemon rotundifolius*. Ten nematode management technologies in rice, banana, brinjal, bittergourd, pepper, cardamom, kacholam and polyhouse cucumber evolved from trials of All India Coordinated Project on Nematodes in Agriculture is published in Package of Practices Recommendations of Kerala Agricultural University for the benefit of farming community. Four native isolates of bacteria having antihelminthic property were isolated and identified.

## **Research Highlights**

- Integrated nematode management strategies—comprising soil solarization, seed/nursery treatment with biocontrol agents, bio-fumigation using cauliflower crop residues, mulching with green leaves of *Gliricidia*, and soil incorporation of bioagent-fortified organic manure were demonstrated to farmers through on-farm trials in rice, okra, cowpea, bitter gourd, polyhouse cucumber, black pepper, cardamom, ginger, and banana.
- Package of Pracices Recommendations were evolved for management of nematodes infecting rice, banana, brinjal, bittergourd, black pepper, cardamom, kacholam and polyhouse cucumber
- Native bacteria, *Lysinibacillus capsici* strain NSK-KAU (accession number-MT509533) and *Bacillus paramycoides* strain NSK-KAU (accession number-MT-510176) antagonistic to reniform nematode were isolated from soils of Kerala.
- Two indigenous isolates of bacteria having antagonistic potential against root-knot nematodes viz. *Bacillus thuringiensis* strain a57 and *Stenotrophomonas maltophilia* strain W2-7 were identified.
- Oil based formulation from *Andographis paniculata* was developed and proved effective against root-knot nematode in okra
- Formulations from *Quassia indica* seeds were developed and tested against *Diaphania indica* and *Henosepilachna septima* of snake gourd. The bioactive compounds in the seeds were identified and structurally characterized as samaderins A, B, C, and cedronin.
- Indigenous entomopathogenic nematode, *Metarahabditis rainai* effective against termite was isolated from Kerala and it was reported first time from India.
- Identified egg parastoid of black bug, *Telenomus oryzae* from rice fields of Kuttanad

### **Experience**

Joined Department of Agriculture Development and Farmers' welfare as Agricultural Officer in 2005 Joined Kerala Agricultural University as Assistant Professor (Agrl.Entomology) in the year 2009

#### **Education**

- Graduated in Agricultural Science from Kerala Agricultural University (1999)
- Post Graduation in Agrl. Entomology from Kerala Agricultural University (2001)
- Ph.D in Agrl Entomology from Kerala Agricultural University (2005)

### Area of Specialization

Biological control of plant parasitic nematodes

#### **Research Projects**

### **Ongoing**

- 1) TNAU project on Bioefficacy trial on Validation of oil dispersion formulation of Nematophagus fungus (TNAUPc2; Acc. No. NAIMCC SF0039) in cucumber through drip irrigation under protected condition. (8.72 lakhs)
- 2) KERA Project on Climate-Resilient Microbial Consortia for Sustainable Management of Nematode-Fungus-Disease Complex in Black Pepper (4.5 lakhs)

## **Completed**

- 1. Isolation and characterization of biocide molecules from potential plant sources. Funded by Rashtriya Krishi Vikas Yojana, Government of Kerala, India (77.88 lakhs)
- 2. Development of substitutes for banned pesticides or alternative technologies for the management of nematodes in vegetables and banana. Funded by Rashtriya Krishi Vikas Yojana, Government of Kerala, India (20.65 lakhs)
- 3. Exploitation of bionematicide from potential plants of westernghats. Funded by Western Ghat Development Program, Government of Kerala (7.48 lakhs)
- 4. Principal Investigator of AICRP on nematodes in Agriculture w.e.f 01.04.2015 to 06.10.2025

#### **Publications**

#### **Journal Articles-46**

- 1. Remya, S., **Nisha,M.S**, Radhakrishnan, K.V., Raj, K.K. and Mohanan, B. 2025. Exploring insecticidal properties of samaderins and cedronin from *Quassia indica* against pumpkin caterpillar, *J. Ent. Res.* 625-631
- 2. Shaana, O.M. and **Nisha, M.S.** 2025. Harnessing bacteria for sustainable pest management: A Biological approach, *Archives of Current Research International*, 25(3): 262-274
- 3. Neeraja, S.R., Narayana, R. and **Nisha, M.S.** 2025. Bio-efficacy of botanical soap formulations fortified with essential oils against *Henosepilachna vigintioctopunctata* (Fab.) (Coleoptera, Coccinellidae) and evaluation of its shelf life, *Entomon*: 50(1): 33-38
- 4. Jose, J, Manu, C.R., **Nisha, M.S.**, Anjali.A.S. and Sindura, K.P. 2025. Exploring vegetable ecosystem for parasitoids of lepidopteran pests and host suitability of predominant parasitoid in Kerala, India, *Journal of advances in biology and biotechnology*, 28 (3) 814-823

- 5. **Nisha,M.S.**, Kiran Karthik Raj and Sherin Beula, R.J. 2024. Biorational management of root-knot nematode (*Meloidogyne incognita*) in ginger (*Zingiber officinale* Rosc.) *Indian Journal of Nematology*, 54 (2): 249-259
- 6. Amruth Hari. **Nisha, M.S.**, Narayana, R. Ayisha, R. and Roy Stephen 2024. Synergistic interaction between *Meloidogyne incognita* and *Fusarium solani* in black pepper, *Piper nigrum* L. *Plant Science Today* 11(special 3): 188-198
- 7. Sherin Beula, R.J. **Nisha, M.S.**, Narayana, R. Ayisha, R. and Ragesh, G. 2024. Histopathological and biochemical variations in resistant and susceptible black pepper cultivars infected with *Meloidogyne incognita*. *Plant Science Today* 11(special 3): 188-198 (NAAS rating -6.90
- 8. **Nisha, M.S.** and Jaseena, P. 2024. Effect of root-knot nematode infestation on growth and biochemical parameters of *Plectranthus rotundifolius* (Poir.), *Pest Management in Horticultural Ecosystems*. 29 (1): 144-150
- 9. Manoj, K., Varghese, T.S., Anitha, N., **Nisha, M.S.** and Gayathri, V. 2023. Toxicity bioassays of essential oils against hadda beetle, *Henosepilachna vigintioctopunctata*, *Indian J. Entomol.* online published Ref. No. e24339:1-5
- 10. **Nisha,M.S.** 2024. Nematode management in plantaion crops and spices, *Indian Journal of Nematology*, 53 (special issue):61-73
- 11. Anil, A., **Nisha, M.S**. and Varghese, S.T. 2023. Bioefficacy of *Andrographis paniculata* (Burm.F.) Nees against *Meloidogyne incognita* in okra, *Abelmoschus esculentus* (L) Moench, *Indian Journal of Nematology*, 53 (2):171-79
- 12. Sooraj, S., **Nisha, M.S.**, Narayana, R. and Kesava Kumar, H. 2023. Pathogenicity of native strains of entomopathogenic nematodes against aphids and pseudostem weevil, *Indian J. Entomol.* online published Ref. No. e23285:1-6 DOI
- 13. Gayathri, P.S. and **Nisha, M.S**. 2023. Survival and infectivity of *Heterorhabditis indica* Poinar in different formulations against pests of bittergourd, *Pest Management in Horticultural Ecosystems*. 29 (1): 144-150
- 14. Krishna, K.R. and **Nisha, M.S.** 2023. Interaction of *Meloidogyne incognita* and *Fusarium oxysporum* on vegetable cowpea, *Vigna unguiculata* (L.) Walp, *Pest Management in Horticultural Ecosystems*. 29 (1): 144-150
- 15. Gayathri, P.S. and **Nisha,M.S.** 2023. Efficacy of entomopathogenic nematodes against *Diaphania indica* (Saunders) (Lepidoptera: Crambidae) in bitter gourd, *Indian J. Nematol.* 53(1): 37-44.
- 16. Krishna, K.R. and **Nisha, M.S**.2023. Biomanagement of root-knot nematode, *Meloidogyne incognita* and wilt fungus, *Fusarium oxysporum*, disease complex in vegetable cowpea, *Indian J. Nematol*. 53(1): 8-14. (NAAS rating 2023-5.23) (Scopus indexed)
- 17. Varghese, P.V. and **Nisha,M.S.**2022. Eco friendly management of root-knot nematode, *Meloidogyne incognita* in cabbage using *Tithonia diversifolia.Indian J.nematol.*52 (1):7-15
- 18. Divya, T. S., **Nisha, M. S**., Anitha, N. and Paul, A. 2021, Integrated management of root-knot nematode, *Meloidogyne incognita* (Kofoid and White) Chitwood in cow pea. . In: *Indian J. Nematol.* 51 (1): 74-80
- 19. Sooraj, S. **Nisha, M. S**. and Kesavakumar, H. 2021. *In vitro* potency evaluation of *Metarhabditis rainai* against termite, *Odontoteremes obesus* (Rambur). *Indian J.Nematol.* 50 (1): 65-67
- 20. Nisha,M.S., Sajeena, A. Jijin, R., Shahiba,A.M. and Anusree,S.S. 2021. Management of Fusarium oxysporum using Quisqualis indica L. and Mikania micrantha Kunth. Green Farming12 (3&4): 153-158
- 21. Remya,S and **Nisha,M.S.** 2021. Seed extracts of *Samadera indica Gaetrn*. for themanagement of pumpkin caterpillar (*Diaphania indica* Saund.) *Green Farming* 12(3&4):175-180

- 22. Remya, S. and **Nisha,M.S.2021**. Efficacy of seed extracts of *Samadera indica* Gaetrn. for the management of epilachna beetle, *Henosepilachna septima* (Dieke) *Pest Manag.Hort. Ecosystems* 27 (2):162-168
- 23. Swathi Karthika, K. S., **Nisha, M. S**. and Anitha, N. 2020, Indigenous bacterial antagonists against reniform nematode, *Rotylenchulus reniformis* Linford and Oliveira in vegetable cowpea. *Indian J. Nematol.* 50 (2) 101-106
- 24. Vishnu, J. S. and **Nisha.M.S**. 2020, Management of root-knot nematode in tomato using antagonistic bacteria *Stenotrophomonas maltophilia* Strain W 2-7. In: *Indian J. Nematol.* 50 (2):71-78
- 25. Nimisha, A. M. and **Nisha**, **M. S.** 2019, Community analysis of nematodes associated with different varieties of banana in Kerala, India. In: *Indian J. Nematol*. 49(2): 165-172
- 26. Remya,S. and **Nisha,M.S.**2020.Molecular approaches for the improvement of natural enemies. *J. Ent. Zool. Studies*: 8(2):175-179
- 27. Sooraj, S., **Nisha, M.S** and Anitha, N.2019. Biocontrol potential of entomopathogenic nematodes *Steinernema* and *Metarhabditis* against tobacco caterpillar, *Spodoptera litura* (Fabricius). *J. Ent. Zool. Studies7(5): 656-660*
- 28. Nisha, M.S., Anusree, S.Sand Sooraj, S.2019. Efficacy of *Andrographis paniculata* (Burm.f.) Nees against root-knot nematode in pepper, *Piper nigrum* L. *J. Ent. Zool. Studies*: 7(4):42-48
- 29. Senson A., Paul, A., Anitha, N., Amritha, V.S., **Nisha, M.S.** and Viswanathan A. 2019. Dissipation and risk assessment of thiamethoxam 12.6% + lambdacyhalothrin 9.5% zc in Tomato. *International Journal of Agriculture Sciences* 11(14) 8797-8799.
- 30. Ausree, S.S., **Nisha, M.S** and Sheela, M.S. 2018. Evaluation of *Quisqualis indica* and *Samadera indica* as botanical pesticides against *Spodoptera litura* in Polyhouse. *Indian J. Entomol.* 81 (1): 428-43
- 31. **Nisha,M.S**. and Nimisha, A.M. 2017. Impact of mulching of green leaves for the management of nematodes associated with banana, *Madras Agric*. *J*.104(4-6):184-187
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- 33. **Nisha,M.S**. and Sheela,M.S. 2017. Effect of fungal egg parasite, *Paecilomyces lilacinus* (Thom.) Samson on *Meloidogyne incognita* in brinjal. *Indian J.Nematol*.46(2):157-159 .
- 34. **Nisha, M. S** and Sheela, M.S. 2015. Crucifer vegetable wastes and green leaves as biofumigants for the management of nematodes in banana. *International Journal of Agriculture, Environment & Biotechnology* 8: 33-39.
- 35. Anusree, S.S., **Nisha, M.S**. and Sheela, M.S. 2016. Insecticidal activity of *Quisqualis indica* L. flower extract on *Spodoptera litura* Fabricius. *International Journal of Applied and Pure Science and Agriculture*. 5: 98-103
- 36. **Nisha**, **M.** S and Sheela, M.S. 2015. Screening of coleus cultivars for their resistance to root-knot nematode, *Meloidogyne incognita* (Kofoid & White) Chitwood and yield under conditions of Kerala. *Entomon* 40 (1): 23-30.
- 37. Rajmohana, K. and **Nisha**, **M.S**. 2013. *Telenomus oryzae*, a new egg parasitoid of the rice black bug from India *Halters* 4: 79-86
- 38. Narayana, R., **Nisha, M.S**. and Sheela, M.S. 2013. Record of Root-knot nematode, *Meloidogyne incognita* infesting cabbage in Kerala. *Indian J.Nematol.*42: 181
- 39. **Nisha, M.S.**, Narayana, R. and Sheela, M.S. 2013. Occurrence of Root-knot Nematode, *Meloidogyne incognita* on carrot in Kerala. *Indian J. Nematol.* 42: 183-184
- 40. **Nisha,M.S** and Sheela,M.S.2012. Rhizome treatment-An Economically feasible nematode management strategy for kacholam. *Indian J. Nematol.*42 (2):125-128

- 41. **Nisha**, **M.S** and Sheela, M.S. 2006. Biomangement of *Meloidogyne incognita* on coleus, *Solenostemon rotundifolius* by integrating solarization, *Paecilomyces lilacinus*, *Bacillus macerans* and neem cake. *Indian J. Nematol*. 36:136-138.
- 42. Sheela, M. S., Jiji, T., **Nisha, M. S** and Joseph Rajkumar. 2005. A new record of *M. graminicol*a on rice, *Oryza sativa* in Kerala. *Indian J. Nematol*. 35:218.
- 43. **Nisha**, **M.S**. and Sheela, M.S. 2003. Preliminary study on the effect of bioagents and organic amendments for the management of root-knot nematode associated with Kacholam, *Kaempferia galanga* Linn. *Pest Mgmt. Hort. Ecosyst.* 9:165 to 168.
- 44. **Nisha, M. S.** and Sheela, M.S. 2002. Effect of green leaf mulching for the management of root-knot nematode in Kacholam. *Indian J. Nematol.* 32: 211-212.
- 45. **Nisha, M. S**. and Sheela, M.S. 2002. *Emilia sonchifolia*: A new host of *Meloidogyne incognita*. *Indian J. Nematol.* 32:193.
- 46. Santhakumari.P, Kavitha,K and **Nisha,M.S.** 2002. Occurrence of collar rot in coral hibiscus, *J.Mycol. Plant Pathol*.258

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- 2. Sheela, M. S., Mohandas, C., Rajkumar, A. and **Nisha. M.S.** 2002. Potential of entomopathogenic nematodes for the management of lepidopteran pests In: *XIII<sup>th</sup> Swadeshi Science Congress*; 5-7 November, 2002; CTCRI, Thiruvananthapuram, p. 21.
- 3.Sheela, M.S., Jiji. T. and **Nisha. M.S.** 2002. Evaluation of different control strategies for the management of nematodes associated with vegetables (brinjal). In: Prem Nath (Eds) *Proceedings of International Conference on Vegetables*; 11-14 November, 2002; Bangalore, IIHR and Indian Society of vegetable Science Foundation, p. 268.
- 4. Sheela, M.S., **Nisha, M.S** and Mohandas, C. 2002. Impact of trap cropping and crop rotation for the management of root-knot nematodes in vegetables. In: Prem Nath (Eds) *Proceedings of International Conferance on Vegetables*, 11-14 November, 2002; Bangalore, IIHR and Indian Society of vegetable Science Foundation, p. 245
- 5. **Nisha, M.S**. and Sheela, M.S. 2004. Rhizome treatment a low cost technology for the management of nematodes in Kacholam, an important medicinal plant. In: *National Symposium on Paradigms Nematological Research for Biodynamic Farming*; 17-19. November, 2004; GKVK, University of Agricultural Sciences, Bangalore,p.62-63
- 6. Sheela, M.S., Nisha, M.S and Mohandas, C. 2004. Eco-friendly management of nematodes associated
  - with Chinese potato (coleus), *Solenostemon rotundifolius* (Poir) Morton. In: *National Symposium on Paradigms in Nematological Research for Biodynamic Farming*; 17-19 November, 2004; Bangalore, University of Agricultural Sciences, GKVK, pp 63-64.
  - 7. Sheela, M.S. and **Nisha, M.S**. 2004. Impact of biological control agents for the management of root-knot nematode in brinjal. In: *National Symposium on Paradigms in Nematological Research for Biodynamic Farming;* 17-19 November, 2004; Banagalore, University of Agricultural Sciences, GKVK, p. 63-64.
  - 8. Sheela, M.S., Mohandas, C., **Nisha, M.S**. and Manu. C.R. 2005 Potential of *Rhabditis* spp. for the management of pests of bittergourd, *Momordica charantia* L. In: Ignacimuthu. S.J. and Jayaraj.S. (Eds) *National Symposium on Green Pesticides for Insect Pest Management*, Narosa Publishing House Pvt. Ltd., New Delhi, pp. 200-202.

- 9. **Nisha, M.S** and Sheela, M.S. 2007. Integrated management of root-knot nematode in coleus, *Solenostemon rotundifolius. In: Proceedings of National Symposium on Nematology in 21st century: Emerging Paradigms*; 22-23 November, 2007; Jorhat, Nematological Society of India and Assam Agricultural University, p. 86-87.
- 10. Sheela, M.S. and **Nisha, M.S**. 2008. Biointensive management of root-knot nematode in coleus (Chinese potato). In: *Proceedings of Fifth International Congress on Nematology;* 13-18 July, 2008; Australia, Brisbane, p. 46.
- 11. Sheela, M.S., Ajith, K. and **Nisha, M.S**. 2008. Impact of green leaf application on the management of plant parasitic nematodes and its effect on the population of predatory and saprophytic nematodes and micro flora in soil. In: *Proceedings of Fifth International Congress on Nematology*; 13-18 July, 2008; Australia, Brisbane, p. 37-38.
- 12. Sheela, M.S., **Nisha. M.S**. and Jiji. T. 2010. Bio efficiency of *Bacillus macerans* for the management of root-knot nematode *M. incognita* in vegetables. In: *Proceedings of International Conference on Bio 2010*; 2- 4 June, 2010; Bangalore, India, p. 12-13.
- 13. **Nisha,M.S** and Sheela,M.S.2011. Reaction of coleus cultivars against root-knot nematode, *Meloidogyne incognita* and its impact on quality. In: *National symposium Nematodes: A challenge under changing climate and agricultural practices*, 16-18 November,2011; KJJM Animation centre Kovalam, Thiruvananthapuram, p.84
- 14. Narayana, R., Sreeja. C.A., **Nisha, M.S**. and Dhanya. M.K. 2011. Management of nematodes infecting cardamom (Eletteria cardamomum maton.) using biodynamic preparation. In: *National symposium-Nematodes: A challenge under changing climate and agricultural practices*, 16-18 November, 2011; KJJM Animation centre Kovalam, Thiruvananthapuram, p.82
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- 2. Nisha.M.S. Remya,S. Abin,J.S Nematode management in banana
- 3. Nisha.M.S AICRP on nematodes in agriculture- at a glance
- 4. Nisha. M.S and Gayathri.P.S- Nematode management in ginger
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- 6. Sheela, M.S., Shobana, G., Kumari Sushama. N.P. **Nisha, M.S.** and Geetha G. Nath. 2004. Pachchakarikalile susthira nimavira Niyantranam Jivanukalilude. Kerala Agricultural University, Thrissur.
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- 12. Nisha, M.S.2023. Mimaviraniyanthranam Elathil

# **Student Guidance (Major Advisor)**

**M. Sc**. (Ag.)-13 Ph.D-3

## Other Institutional Responsibilities

- 1. Currently acting as student Advisor/faculty mentor to 10 Undergraduate students.
- 2. Member in PC group: Crop pests and beneficial Insects
- 3. Group leader of Group .F- Nematode management in Fruits and Spicesof AICRP on nematodes

# **Membership in Professional Associations**

- 1. Annual membership in Nematological Society of India
- 2. Life member in Association for advancement of entomology