



LOOKING BACK
(A journey through the past six decades)
Part 1

Dr. K. Vasu



Looking Back

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Part-I



Edition First

Author

Dr. K Vasu



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Dedicated To

My
Parents
Teachers

And
My Family



Preface

Millions had passed through this way. Some had their birth in palaces or big mansions and left the world leaving their foot prints on their path. A great many were born in small huts but over the years of their journey, reached somewhere and left their marks in the history of mankind. But millions and millions had their beginnings in humble surroundings, lived and perished. Nobody knows where they started their journeys from, where they were heading to and from where they disappeared. But everyone has a history of their own. Even the smallest creation of the nature like an ant which the human eye can see and follow has its life history which might enthuse everyone who can appreciate it.

The majority might not have left their imprints and marks on the paths they followed but they form the path themselves, perishing on the way. In my work, I have made an attempt to narrate my journey of sixty years and tried to share my experiences with the readers. It was a journey I underwent with a strong belief that ‘nothing is impossible under the sun ...’ and ‘ a man would do nothing if he waited until he could do it so well that no one would find fault with what he has done’ as said by Cardinal Newman. I am aware that there was nothing extraordinary in my journey but was like the one of those of millions who passed this way.

Those I met during my long journey appear in the text by their names wherever it is absolutely necessary except one, the name of my childhood friend who left me in between. The name is changed which is deliberate.

I took utmost care not to hurt anyone personally while narrating certain events in which my colleagues were involved by avoiding quoting their names.

Place: Kunnamangalam, Kerala.

The Author

Date: 16-08-2023.

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Dr K Vasu

Foreword

The book *Looking Back* is the memoirs of an Indian born with silver spoon of Independent India. His travails and tribulations amply reflect the ambitions and dreams of a citizen in free India. He was born in a downtrodden family but that did not deter him in pursuing higher studies despite umpteen obstacles all the way. He was all the times yearning to learning and believed in the dictum of lifelong learning. He was lured with lucrative jobs in green pastures other than the green and glorious Kerala, his mother State but was steadfast to be fastened to his native State so that he could be with his parents and siblings.

He has graphed several anecdotes which, perhaps unwittingly, reveal his stellar character. He would not apply for a deserving higher post as he thought that he would deprive his less qualified colleague serving for a longer period than him at the CWRDM, Kozhikode.

He brought the CWRDM to the global map by creating the state of art STABLE ISOTOPE FACILITY at CWRDM, Kozhikode. It was a herculean task considering the fact that he was not even heading the Centre. His selfless sorties to Mumbai and Delhi in coordinating with the Bhabha Atomic Research Centre, Mumbai and the Department of Science and Technology, New Delhi were for convincing the authorities on the viability of the project. A lesser man would not have dared to dream this big.

His life is dotted with various places of study and work. If graphed, it would represent India from Ooty to Roorkee via New Delhi within India and connect to Mumbai and Vienna in nuclear research and advanced training.

His memoirs are a storehouse of various anecdotes and episodes of human endeavour, and anthologies of human pursuits. It is a mirror through which the readers will see them a part of their life and will give ample opportunities to reflect and deflect the intellectual and scientific author's actions and thoughts.

I feel privileged to be associated with Dr K Vasu, the author of this book for over four decades and a witness to his perseverance in pursuing Ph.D. at the premier Indian Agricultural Research Institute, New Delhi in late seventies.

Aug 04, 2023
New Delhi-12

Dr C Devakumar
Former Assistant Director General,
Indian Council of Agricultural Research

Contents

Part -I Ph.D. Not an Easy Game

Chapter No.	Chapters Name	Page No.
1.	The Journey begins	1
2.	Early days in Puthur- my native village in Kerala	4
3.	End of schooling in my native State and journey to Tamil Nadu	12
4.	On the run to find a permanent place to live.	16
5.	Muthorai- our village in Ooty	20
6.	My education-the broken journey begins	27
7.	My elementary school days at Kilkavatti.	31
8.	Monday, June first, 1959.	52
9.	Second June 1959, my first day at St. Joseph's High School, Ooty.	58
10.	The journey to school - fear and fun, feud and joy.	64
11.	The monthly test, progress report and merit cards	81
12.	The reunion of two friends after decades of separation	85
13.	Homi Jehangir Bhabha - an opportunity to serve a cup of tea	99
14.	Earning while learning.	106
15.	Re-entry of my childhood friend and her exit forever.	109

16.	The final year of schooling - SSLC results and loss of self confidence	125
17.	The first year at the Government Arts College, Ooty.	140
18.	A turbulent period of last three years at the college in Ooty-I	151
19.	A turbulent period of last three years at the college in Ooty-II	166
20.	Dream for higher education- A serious setback.	190
21.	Hunting for a job - first job, the best job but.....	199
22.	Soil Research Institute - An eventful seven and a half years.	247
23.	My two years at the University of Roorkee.	323
24.	IARI- The Premier Institute of Agricultural Sciences and Technology Education and Research.	417
25.	Leaving the ICAR service and a short stint in Chennai.	577

ABOUT THE AUTHOR



Dr. K. Vasu (09.09.1947-) was born in Puthur, a remote village near Thalassery in the Malabar region of Kerala and migrated at a young age to the Nilgiris in Tamil Nadu. He had an elementary education at Kilkavatti, near Muthorai, close to Ooty, under the Gell Memorial High School Management in Fern hill. His high schooling was at St. Joseph's, Ooty (1959-65), continued for graduation at Government Arts College affiliated to the University of Madras (1965-69). He entered into service as a Senior Scientific Assistant (Laboratory) at Central Soil Conservation Research Demonstration and Training - Regional Centre, Ooty under the Indian Council of Agricultural Research (ICAR, 1970-77). He did postgraduation in chemistry at the University of Roorkee (1977-79) and a doctoral programme at the Indian Agricultural Research Institute (IARI) New Delhi (1979-83). He joined the Centre for Water Resources Development and Management (CWRDM), Kozhikode, Kerala, an R&D Centre on water under the Kerala State Council for Science, Technology and Environment (KSCSTE) in 1983 and continued there till his retirement in 2007. He had training visits to Utah State University in Logan, USA and Wallac in Turku, Finland. He also travelled to the IAEA as part of the IAEA's RCA programme to attend the Research Committee Meetings. He coordinated with a few universities in South India under a Department of Science and Technology (DST of the Government of India) project on the application of stable and radioactive isotopes-based techniques to water resource programmes. As a leader of a small group of scientists, technical and other supporting staff, he assisted CWRDM Management to establish a Stable and Radioactive Isotope Facility at the Centre with the support of DST (Government of India) and the technical support of experts at the Bhabha Atomic Research Centre (BARC), Mumbai. He made efforts to popularise nuclear techniques applicable to water resources programmes among the faculty and research scholars working in the leading technical institutes in the country. He also represented CWRDM as a Member of a few Expert Committees constituted to address the soil, water and environmental issues.



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