

## **RANJITH MAHINDAPALA Ph D; F I Biol (SL); FNAS (SL)**

Ranjith Mahindapala has a working career of nearly 45 years of which 22 years were spent at the *Coconut Research Institute of Sri Lanka* (CRI) and 18 years in an International Organisation, the *International Union for Conservation of Nature & Natural Resources* (IUCN) at its Sri Lanka Office and its Asia Regional Office in Bangkok. He has nearly 30 years hands-on experience in design, development, and implementation of projects and programmes in agriculture and in natural resources management, and leading Monitoring and Evaluation missions for projects and programmes, capacity assessment, and on Results-based Reporting.

He was the Director of CRI from 1987 up to 1993 during which time he led the development of the first 5-year strategic plan for the Coconut Research Institute of Sri Lanka (1988). He was then appointed as the second Executive Director of the *Sri Lanka Council for Agricultural Research Policy* (SLCARP).

He joined IUCN in 1996 as the first Biodiversity Officer in Sri Lanka Office to work on the then newly-introduced **Biodiversity Action Plan** for Sri Lanka. He then held the position of Director Programme of Sri Lanka Country Office before being posted to IUCN's Asia Regional Office in Bangkok for regional programme coordination, with a stint in Hanoi, Viet Nam as Head of Office there. He was appointed IUCN's Country Representative in Sri Lanka in 2008, and in 2011 took up the position of Programme Manager of a large, post-tsunami regional initiative of IUCN, *Mangroves for the Future*.

For nearly five years, he served as a Member of the Biology Working Group of the University Grants Commission of Sri Lanka. He was also a Member of the formative Council of the Wayamba University in mid-90s.

In the recent times, he has been closely involved in capacity development for planning, and monitoring and evaluation. Since 2011, he has been the lead trainer in Project Cycle Management in the Asia region for Mangroves for the Future Programme, and has conducted 36 training programmes in 11 countries during the period 2011- July 2014. He has undertaken regular work-related missions to Bangladesh, Cambodia, Indonesia, India, Maldives, Pakistan, Nepal, Sri Lanka, Thailand and Viet Nam. Additionally, regular monitoring and evaluation visits to Seychelles.

He retired from IUCN in October 2014; he now works (part-time) as the Executive Director of the Delhi-based *Community of Evaluators, South Asia* and as an Independent Evaluator.

He is a Fellow of the Institute of Biology (Sri Lanka). He was elected to the National Academy of Sciences, Sri Lanka as an Academician in 1991, and held the position of Assistant Secretary, General Secretary, and Treasurer in the past. He is the current President of NASSL.