

**MERLIN FRANCO, F**  
**Institute of Asian Studies**  
**Universiti Brunei Darussalam**

## **EDUCATION**

---

**Ph.D. Ethnobotany (2010):** University of Madras, Chennai, India

**M.Sc. Botany (2003):** Madras Christian College, Chennai, India

## **AREAS OF INTEREST**

---

*Biocultural Diversity; Biodiversity and Ecosystem services; Traditional Agricultural Systems; Eco-criticism*

## **PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE**

---

**Fellow,** Curtin Sarawak Research Institute, Curtin University Sarawak Malaysia (2012-2015)

-Biocultural Diversity

**Research Officer,** Earthwatch Institute- India (2011-2012)

- Pollination Ecosystem Services

**Assistant Professor,** St. Xavier's College, Tirunelveli (2009 to 2010)

-Biodiversity, Ecology and Angiosperm taxonomy.

**Programme Officer,** Centre for Indian Knowledge Systems, Chennai (2007 to 2008)

-Traditional Agricultural Systems.

## **RESEARCH EXPERIENCE**

---

### **RESEARCH GRANTS**

- Principal Investigator, *Relationship between Traditional Knowledge, Culture and Language*; (2012-2015; **MYR 77,000**). Funded by Ministry of Higher Education (MOHE), Malaysia.  
*Co-investigator: Dr. Beena Giridharan.* (Research project undertaken for Curtin University Sarawak, Malaysia)
- Principal investigator, *Developing a unified ethnobotanical index to assess language and traditional knowledge vitality* (2013-2014; **USD 7100**). Funded by Firebird Foundation for Anthropological Research, U.S.A. *Co-investigator: Ms. Bibi Aminah Abdul Ghani.*

### **RESEARCH SUPERVISION (COMPLETED)**

- MPhil -2 (For St. Xavier's College, Tirunelveli, 2009 to 2010)
- PhD-1 (For Curtin University, Sarawak Malaysia 2013-2016)

## PUBLICATIONS

---

### RESEARCH PAPERS

- F.M. Franco (2015). Calendars and ecosystem management: some observations. *Human Ecology* 43 (2): 355-359.
- Franco, F.M., S. Hidayati, B.A.A. Ghani & B. Ranaivo-Malancon (2015). Ethnotaxonomic systems can reflect the vitality status of Indigenous languages and Traditional Knowledge. *Indian Journal of Traditional Knowledge* 14 (2): 175-182.
- Hidayati, S., F.M. Franco & R.W. Bussmann (2015). Moving towards Phase 5: Current Status of Ethnobiology in Southeast Asia. *Journal of Ethnobiology and Ethnomedicine* 11(17).
- F.M. Franco, B.A.A. Ghani & S. Hidayati (2014). Terras (*Eusideroxylon zwageri* Teijsm. & Binn.), a Cultural Keystone Species of the Berawan people of Sarawak, Malaysia. *Pertanika Journal of Social Sciences and Humanities* 22 (3): 891-902.
- F.M. Franco, B.A.A. Ghani & S. Hidayati (2014). Biocultural importance of the Tanying [*Koompassia excelsa* (Becc.) Taub.] tree for the Berawan of Loagan Bunut, Sarawak, Malaysia. *Indian Journal of Traditional Knowledge* 13(1): 63-69.
- Mary, D.A., F.M. Franco & V. Babu. 2011. Assessing the contribution of local and traded biodiversity in community health care: a case study from Keelakodankulam village, South India. *Ethnobotany Research and Applications* 9: 275-286.
- Franco, F.M., S. Sridhar & M.S. Balasubramaniam. 2011. Significance of Bio Cultural Protocols in Empowering Farming Communities. In Choudhary S.L., S.K. Khandelwal & Y.L. Nene (Eds) *Proceedings of the International Conference on "Traditional Practices in Conservation Agriculture"* held at Udaipur, India from 18th to 20th Sep. 2010. Asian Agri-History Foundation, Secunderabad.
- Franco, F.M., & D.T. R. Robin. 2011. Vaavubhali, a Traditional Festival for Remembering Ancestors. *Ethnobotany Research and Applications* 9: 115-128.
- Franco, F.M., & D. Narasimhan. 2009. Plant names and uses as indicators of traditional knowledge. *Indian Journal of Traditional Knowledge* 8(4): 645-648.
- Narasimhan, D., & F.M. Franco. 2009. What is traditional knowledge? Pp. 168-172 in *Plant and Fungal Biodiversity and Bioprospecting*. Edited by S. Krishnan and D.J. Bhat. Broadway Book centre, Goa.
- Franco, F.M., & D. Narasimhan. 2008. Ecological elements in the songs of the Poraja and the ancient Tamils. *Indian Journal of Eco-criticism* 1: 49-54.
- Franco, F.M., D. Narasimhan & W. Stanley. 2008. Relationship between four tribal communities and their natural resources in the Koraput region. *Ethnobotany Research & Applications* 6:481-485.

## BOOKS

- Franco, F.M. & D. Narasimhan. 2012. *Ethnobotany of the Kondh, Poraja, Gadaba and Bonda of the Koraput region of Odisha, India*. DK Printworld, New Delhi.
- Balasubramanian, A.V., T.D. Nirmala Devi & F. Merlin Franco, (Eds). 2009. *Use of Animal Products in Traditional Agriculture*. Centre for Indian Knowledge Systems, Chennai.

## OTHER RESEARCH/CREATIVE WORKS

---

### *Popular articles*

- Franco, F.M. 2013. A pledge for Global Handwashing Day, *Borneo Post*, October 08.
- Franco, F.M. 2013. Planning a green city. *Borneo Post*, June 04.
- Franco, F.M. 2010. Nurseries of ancestor worship. *Down to Earth*, May 15-30.
- Franco, F.M. & D. Narasimhan. 2006 'Cultural and ecological importance of sacred groves of Kondhs'. *SDNP Newsletter*, CPR Environmental Education Centre, Chennai. Issue No.1.

## AWARDS AND FELLOWSHIPS

---

- 2013: Linguists of the year 2013 award from [www.intra.net](http://www.intra.net) .
- 2011-2012: Young Scientists for Rainforests award, Conservation Foundation, U.K.
- 2003-2005: PhD fieldwork fellowship from IRDWSI, Koraput, India

## MEMBERSHIPS AND AFFILIATIONS

---

- Regional editor (Asia) for an international Scopus indexed journal *Ethnobotany Research and Applications*, published by the Botanical Research Institute of Texas.
- Society of Ethnobiology
- Occasional Guest Editor, Journal of Threatened Taxa