

## BIO OF PROF. SANJAY DESHMUKH, MSc,PhD,DSc(hc),LLB,DSc (hc)

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### About

- One of India's widely acknowledged Life Scientists as also Academic Thought Leaders in Higher Education.
- Currently, Professor of Life Sciences at Mumbai University
- Served as youngest ever, 55th Vice-Chancellor of 162 year old University of Mumbai-encompassing over 800 affiliated colleges over 8.0 Lakh students. Brought transparency in the system, and built global best practices with a view on skilling and increasing employability.
- Recipient of two DSc Degrees (*honoris causa*) in 2017 and in 2020 from (a) Ram Manohar Lohia Avadh University, Uttar Pradesh and (b) University of Science & Technology Meghalaya respectively, in recognition of his long and dedicated service to the cause of application of science and technology for securing sustainable livelihoods in general and for bringing academic and administrative reforms in the University of Mumbai in particular.



### Research & Development

- Field level research experience at national and international levels spanning over 50 countries.
- Pioneering work on mangrove ecosystems of the world led to establishment of a global network of mangrove genetic resources conservation centres. Also, developed people-centred "hotspots" strategy for conservation planning through extensive first hand study on sacred groves in Maharashtra State.
- Only faculty of the University who is a recognized PhD Guide in five subjects.

### Leadership:

- Provided strong strategic leadership in global environment and development issues.
- Over 3 decades of experience of professional leadership (including 15 years with NGOs).
- Led Mumbai University as NAAC Coordinator which was re-accredited as Grade 'A' University by National Assessment and Accreditation Council, Govt. of India. Has also been a NAAC Assessor.
- Provided exemplary leadership as Vice-Chancellor of Mumbai University and brought academic, administrative, examination evaluation, financial and policy reforms in higher education.

### Resource mobilization:

- Proven track record in resource mobilization, alliance building and fund raising. Along with Prof. M.S. Swaminathan, originated the global coastal and marine 'hotspot' strategy for conservation planning, that generated over US \$ 500m for global conservation activities- the largest sum ever assigned to a single strategy.
- Raised over INR 550 Crore developmental grants for implementation of Mumbai University's Master Plan with an outlay of INR 3,200 Crore.
- Generated grants close to INR 170 million for personal research, with an outcome of over 200 research publications and research guidance to several students at PhD and Post Doctoral levels.

### Policy work (national/international):

- Scientific Consultant and Policy Adviser to several countries as well as inter-governmental agencies, and Government of India (at State as well as Central Govt. levels).
- Influence of his work is seen in the increasingly common requirement that rigorous environmental value be incorporated into policy planning from the start, as a step in the approval process for development projects backed by national and international aid-givers.

### Awards for community development:

During 2005-2010, Professor Deshmukh was President of an NGO 'Konkan Nisarg Manch' which was recognized for taking Technology and Research from "Lab to Land" for enhancing rural livelihoods.

- Best Village Development Award (through Bamboo Reforestation) in NGO Category, Ministry of Environment and Forests, Govt. of Maharashtra'. November 2010.
- Best Village Industries Development Project Award (2009), Ministry of MSME, GOI (One of the of the four best Fruit Processing Units by NGOs in India). August 2009.

### Election to Scientific bodies/academies:

Elected Fellow of several scientific bodies/ academies such as Mangrove Society of India (MSI), Goa, India (2017); National Environmental Science Academy (NESA), New Delhi India (2014); International Society for Science and Technology (ISST), Mumbai, India (2011); LEAD-India (Leadership in Environment and Development), New Delhi, India (2006); Fellow of Society of Biosciences, India (1997).