

## Venkataraman Balaji

### **Head of Knowledge Management and Sharing ICRISAT**

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(on the staff of ICRISAT since May 2001, first as Head of the Information Systems Unit and since Jan.2004 in the current position)

### **Educational qualifications:**

**Doctor of Philosophy (PhD)** in “interdisciplinary studies in energy” awarded by the University of Madras, India, in 1991

**Master of Science (integrated)** awarded by the Indian Institute of Technology Kanpur in 1984

Training in Development Management as Ramon Magsaysay Fellow, Asian Institute of Management, manila, the Philippines (1991-92)

### **Previous Employment:**

M S Swaminathan Research Foundation, India, during 1991-2000 in various capacities but mainly as director of informatics and regional coordinator of the UNESCO-Cousteau Ecotechnology Network;

Jan-May 2001: Senior Scientist at the CNRS-CEFE in Montpellier, France;

### **Relevant Projects Directed (recent):**

Information Villages Project in India (1997-2000), supported by the IDRC, Canada

Rural Women in Knowledge Society (2002-03), supported by FAO-RAP, Bangkok

ICT in rural livelihoods (2002-present), supported by the State of Andhra Pradesh, India

Distance Learning for Drought Mitigation, (2002-2003), supported by the Commonwealth of Learning (with Rex Navarro)

Virtual Academy for the Semi-Arid Tropics, a consortium of CGIAR centers and NAREs partners and ARI's supported by the CGIAR ICT-KM program (2004-continuing)

Video-conferencing to improve research collaboration (2005-2006), a project of CGIAR

AGROVOC maintenance (2005-continuing), supported by FAO

Pilot project to set up an ICT-mediated extension system in Afghanistan, supported by IDRC,(2003-continuing)

### **Publications (recent):**

Book: 1; Book Chapters: 4; Journal publications: 6; International conference presentations: 16; International conferences/workshops organized: 11

### **Awards:**

World Technology Award in Education 2001 ([www.wtn.net](http://www.wtn.net))

Motorola Gold Award for innovations in two-way radio, 1999

**Consultancies (recent):** UNDP, ICSU-SCOPE, IDRC