

Workshop on

Scientific Writing and Effective Communication



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Vimala D. Nair

Scientific Writing
and Communication
in Agriculture and
Natural Resources

 Springer



5 – 6 January 2015
Goa University, Goa 403 206, India



UF UNIVERSITY of
FLORIDA

Workshop on Scientific Writing and Effective Communication

05th – 06th January 2015
Goa University, Goa, India

Workshop Overview

Communication of research findings is fundamental to progress in any scientific endeavour. The astounding value of publications in professional accomplishments has led to the maxim “publish or perish.” Agricultural and natural resource management (NRM) sciences are no exception to this general rule. An important criterion that determines the quality of research is the reputation of the journal in which it is published. Publishing in highly rated journals is, therefore, important to the scientists as well as their research institutions. In order to publish in such journals, while the data quality is certainly of significance, the role of the written text as well as crispness of presentation of the results of the research work can not be undermined.

Through illustrative presentations and interactive exercises on common norms of scientific writing, the Workshop will help the participants develop their writing and presentation skills, enhance their confidence to publish in high-quality journals and present their work to international audiences. The course will also cover various other aspects of scientific publications including manuscript submission, ethical issues, peer-review, post-review revision, proof-corrections, skills required as potential reviewers of manuscripts and online and open-access publications.

The sessions will be open for researchers in: chemical/physical/life/environmental sciences; preference will be given to Ph.D. students and early-career professionals.

Session Topics

1. Introduction: Scientific Writing: A brief overview of developments, Types of scientific publications, Journal articles and location-specific research
2. Organization of a Research Paper: The IMRAD Format
3. Tables and Figures: Table vs. figure, Table headings and figure captions, How to construct tables and figures, Data presentation guidelines
4. Numbers, Units, Dates, Abbreviations, Nomenclature, Math/Stat Expressions
5. Words: Gender and pronouns, Modifiers, Idioms, Jargon, Nouns from verbs, Collectives, Spelling, Similar words with different meanings
6. Sentences: Active and passive voice, Tense, Parallel structure, Double negatives, Complex sentences, Wordiness, Transition, Punctuation marks
7. Preparing the Manuscript; ethical concerns
8. Dealing with the Journal : Journal quality (Impact Factor), Manuscript submission, Peer review, Proof correction
9. Oral Presentations
10. Poster Presentation

Course Instructors

The resource persons are from the University of Florida, Gainesville, Florida, USA. Jointly, they have authored the book *Scientific Writing and Communications in Agriculture and Natural Resources*, Springer, 2014. While both of them have published prolifically in international scientific outlets, they have also been teaching similar courses in the USA and a number of other countries, a mission stemming out of their genuine concern for maintaining and uplifting the standards and skills in the field of science communication.

The participation of Prof. P. K. R. Nair, University of Florida, USA, in this event is supported by a ‘Fulbright –Nehru Distinguished Chair Award’ to him, administered by the United States–India Educational Foundation (USIEF).



Dr. P. K. R. Nair, Distinguished Professor, University of Florida, USA, has been Editor-in-Chief of *Agroforestry Systems* for over 10 years and an Associate Editor of *Plant and Soil*. Currently, he is the Series Editor of the *Advances in Agroforestry* book series and Specialty Chief Editor, *Frontiers in Agroecology and Land Use Systems*, an open-access journal in collaboration with the Nature Publishing Group.



Dr. Vimala Nair, Research Professor, Soil and Water Science Department, University of Florida, USA, was an Associate Editor of the *Journal of Environmental Quality* for six years and received the Journal’s *Outstanding Associate Editor Award* in 2003. Currently, she is an Associate Editor with *Frontiers in Agroecology and Land Use Systems*. She also teaches a graduate level course in scientific writing at the University of Florida.

Who should attend?

This course will be of interest and relevance to a broad spectrum of young scientists who have commenced or completed their doctoral research programmes and are keen on developing their scientific writing and presentation skills for pursuing a career in scientific research.

Benefits

The course participants will gain and/or enhance their understanding on:

1. Writing and preparing scientific papers and book chapters for high-quality research journals and other publications
2. Choosing proper units, symbols, punctuation marks, words, and expressions and constructing tables, figures, sentences and paragraphs
3. Selecting a journal for publication and submitting the manuscript after ethical checks
4. Dealing with peer-review comments and handling the proofs
5. Preparing and making impactful oral and poster presentations

Course Fee

In-house (Goa University) participants : Rs.500/-

External participants : Rs.1000/-

Fee includes

The course fee covers information provided through PDF files, sample exercises and selected journal articles (PDF).

The fee also covers working lunch and refreshments.

Participants of the Workshop would be awarded a Certificate at the end of the event.

Payment should be made in the form of a crossed Demand Draft favoring "The Registrar, Goa University", payable at Panaji, Goa and must accompany the registration form submitted / posted to the Workshop Co-ordinator or the Head, Department of Biotechnology, Goa University.

Communications/queries may be directed to :

saga@unigoa.ac.in or usha@unigoa.ac.in

Phone : 91-832-6519357 / 6519356

Course Agenda

05 January : 10:00 – 17:00

06 January : 10:00 – 16:00

Timeline:

Last date for receipt of application **30th Dec 2014**

Training Location:

Dept. of Biotechnology
Goa University
Goa 403 206, India.

Course Instructors:

Dr. P. K. R. Nair
Distinguished Professor
Agroforestry
University of Florida
Gainesville, FL 32611, USA

Dr. Vimala D. Nair
Research Professor
Soil and Water Science Department
University of Florida
Gainesville, FL 32611, USA

Workshop Coordinator:

Dr. Sanjeev C. Ghadi
Professor, Dept. of Biotechnology
Goa University
Goa 403 206, India.



International Education Center

Workshop on Scientific Writing and Effective Communication 05 – 06 January 2015

Registration Form

Part A: Participant's Details

Name in Full: _____

(As you would like it to appear in your certificate)

Affiliation: _____

Address: _____

Email: _____

Telephone: _____ Mobile: _____

Part B: Background Information

Academic Qualifications: _____

(highest to first degree)

Current Institute/University: _____

Relevant areas of interest: _____

Attached DD No: _____ Dated : _____

Part C: Please tell us why you think attending this course will be useful for you.

(Use separate sheet; no more than 200 words)

Signature: _____ Date: _____

*Completed form along with the course fee by Demand Draft in favor of
"The Registrar, Goa University",
payable at Panaji, Goa, must be sent to:*

Workshop Coordinator, Department of Biotechnology

Goa University

Goa 403 206, India.

Phone: +91 832 6519357 / 6519356

Email: saga@unigoa.ac.in / usha@unigoa.ac.in

Last date for receipt of application: **30th Dec 2014**

Accepted participants will be notified by: **02nd Jan 2015**