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### *Bio-note*

## **Prof. Ramesh Kothari**

**Dr. Ramesh Kothari** is a distinguished Professor of Microbiology and the Head of the UGC-CAS Department of Biosciences at Saurashtra University, Rajkot, Gujarat, India. He also serves as the coordinator of the M.Sc. Biotechnology program within the department. Dr. Kothari earned his Bachelor of Science degree in Microbiology from M & N. Virani Science College, Rajkot, in 1994, followed by a Master of Science degree in Microbiology from Saurashtra University in 1996, and a Ph.D. in Microbiology from the same institution in 2003. After completing his Ph.D., he joined Christ College, Rajkot, as an Assistant Professor in Microbiology, where he served for 14 years. In 2012, he conducted post-doctoral research as a visiting researcher at the University of Medicine & Dentistry of New Jersey (UMDNJ), now Rutgers University, in Newark, USA.

Dr. Kothari joined Saurashtra University as a Professor of Microbiology in 2014. He has since guided numerous M.Sc., M.Phil., PhD, and Post-Doctoral scholars in research areas such as Bioremediation, Agricultural Microbiology, and Probiotics. Dr. Kothari has 27 years of UG and PG teaching as well as research experience. As of August 2024, he has supervised 18 PhD, 08 M.Phil. students and 49 M.Sc. dissertation students. Currently, 05 PhD scholars are pursuing their PhD under his mentorship.

Dr. Kothari has an exemplary academic and research record, being associated with several academic and research organizations both nationally and internationally through diverse research collaborations. His work has led to over 61 international peer-reviewed research publications, 13 research papers in conference proceedings, 02 patents and 12 book chapters. Additionally, he has published 4 books with international publishers. He has successfully completed 04 major research project, 01 minor research project and 03 E-content development projects funded by UGC, NMEICT-MHRD, DRDO, the Climate Change Department and IQAC. His contributions have been recognized with prestigious fellowships and awards. Moreover, he is frequently invited to deliver expert talks on his research and academic expertise at various institutes, fostering global connections and knowledge exchange.

Dr Kothari holds several prominent positions, including DBT-nominated Member Secretary of the Institutional Bio-Safety Committee (IBSC) at the Bioscience Department of Saurashtra University and a member of the IBSC at Junagadh Agricultural University. He serves on multiple academic boards at Saurashtra University and is a reviewer and editorial board member for several international research journals. Additionally, he is a member of the project review committee for the National Fund for Scientific and Technological Research (FONDECYT) in Chile and an external expert panel member for evaluating research proposals for the National Science Centre (Narodowe Centrum Nauki) in Poland. He has sequenced and published 08 whole genomes of novel bacteria and one viral strain. Dr Kothari is also a member of the technical committee for the climate change project of the Government of Gujarat, the academic planning board of Dr Babasaheb Ambedkar Open University, and the faculty of science at Bhakta Kavi Narsinh Mehta University (BKNMU), Junagadh, Gujarat, India.

Prof. Kothari's academic and research pursuits have taken him across the globe, visiting countries such as the USA, Australia, Switzerland, Japan, the United Kingdom, France, Germany, the Netherlands etc. His international exposure and experiences inspire his students and peers, encouraging them to broaden their horizons and engage with the global academic and research community.