



ST. XAVIER'S COLLEGE (Autonomous), PALAYAMKOTTAI – 627 002.

(Recognized as “College with Potential for Excellence” by UGC & Accredited at A⁺ Grade with a CGPA of 3.66 out of 4 in IV Cycle by NAAC)

ANNUAL REPORT 2024-2025

CENTRE FOR PLANT BIOTECHNOLOGY (2011)

The Centre for Plant Biotechnology (CPB) is currently focusing on the *ex-situ* conservation of rare and endangered ferns of the Western Ghats, India, as well as the *in vitro* ontogeny and stage-specific phytochemical and molecular characterization of pteridophytes. At present, four research scholars—Ms. Silvia Juliet (FT), Mr. A. Periasamy IFS (PT, Chief Conservator of Forests, Villupuram Division, Villupuram), Ms. Vasanthasakthi (FT), and Mr. Robin Charles (FT)—are pursuing their research under the guidance of Dr. M. Johnson. Additionally, Ms. M. Sujatha and Ms. Vidyarani George successfully defended their Ph.D. thesis on 14.05.2024. Dr. M. Johnson serves as a reviewer for several prestigious journals, including the *South African Journal of Botany*, *Scientific Reports*, *Journal of Environmental Management*, *Journal of Herbal Medicine*, *Clinical Complementary Medicine and Pharmacology*, *Food Chemistry Advances*, *Journal of Threatened Taxa*, *Electronic Journal of Biotechnology*, *Discover Applied Sciences*, *Phytoparasitica*, and *Food Science & Nutrition*. During this academic year, five research papers have been published in Scopus/WOS-indexed journals. Additionally, five book chapters have been published by internationally reputed publishers, namely Springer and Bentham Books. Dr. M. Johnson also served as a resource person for the National Seminar on *Biotechnology for Sustainable Development* at Annai Velankanni College, Nagercoil, and the State-Level Workshop on *How to Write a Review Paper* at Holy Cross College, Nagercoil. Ms. Silvia Juliet is currently working on her Ph.D. thesis.