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Message from the Guest Editor

I am extremely glad to be a part of the **Special Issue**, **Volume 44** of ***Journal of Environmental Biology* - 2023**, covering research contributions focusing on the vanya sericulture sector. Vanya sericulture meets many of Sustainable Development Goals (SDG) with potential to create sustainable livelihoods to poor rural and tribal youth/women populace of the country besides contributing to environmental protection. In this context, the initiative of Editorial Board to bring out exclusive research documentation in vanya sector not only encourages the research growth but also address the social causes. This attains importance in view of many emerging approaches in research/ development and cutting edge technologies to address the wide ranging problems faced by the stakeholders across the silk value chain, for its inclusive growth. While comprehensive information is available in the mulberry sector, I am sure that the present special issue would pave way to help all the concerned in evincing their interest to support vanya sericulture and associated stakeholders. This would also give the required fillip to much needed collaborative research and convergence initiatives to promote vanya silk industry in the country.

Eighteen contributions in this Special Issue covering basic and applied research information focusing all aspects of vanya sericulture, would bring in much required cascading impact in future vanya research sector. I am confident that the "*Journal of Environmental Biology* - 2023, Special Issue-Volume 44" would be very useful for the researchers, students, scholars, scientists, planners and entrepreneurs. I look forward for many other such initiatives from *Journal of Environmental Biology* in the years to come and wish all the best to those associated with vanya sericulture and silk industry in the country.

Dr. K. Sathyanarayana

Director, Central Tasar Research and Training Institute, Ranchi, India
Guest Editor - Special Issue, Journal of Environmental Biology, Lucknow, India

Dr. K. Sathyanarayana is presently the Director of Central Tasar Research and Training Institute, Central Silk Board, Ministry of Textiles, Govt. of India, Ranchi, Jharkhand, which is the exclusive institute in the World dealing with the research and development issues pertaining to tropical tasar sector catering to 10 Central and Northern States of India. Dr. Sathyanarayana is a key researcher in sericulture focusing on field oriented applied research. He was the key in drafting various policy guidelines for effective formulation, monitoring and evaluation of developmental projects viz., UNDP, SGSY, MKSP, NABARD, Bio-Tech Kisan Project etc., besides forging many successful GO-NGO collaborations. Presently, he provides R&D guidance to scientists of CTRTI Ranchi and its nested units. Dr. Sathyanarayana's contributions to tasar sector are recognized with many prestigious awards/appreciations, including Times of India Social Impact Awards, Citi Group micro-entrepreneurship awards, Best FPO awards etc., for the project modules empowering tribal women and youth in Left Wing Extremism affected areas. He has published over 260 research publications in National and International Journals/ books/ book chapters/ proceedings/ Abstracts and designed many training modules besides implementing various R&D Projects. Under his able guidance, CTRTI has initiated many field-oriented research projects and collaborated with research organizations/universities besides corporates and NGOs viz., BHU Varanasi, CSIR-CIMAP Lucknow, Lucknow University, BAU Ranchi, FRC-ER Prayagraj, Tasar Development Foundation, Hindalco Industries Ltd., for inclusive growth of tasar silk industry in India. Presently, more than 15 research projects in various areas of tasar culture are under progress in collaboration with many research institutes of national repute. Editorial Committee of the *Journal of Environmental Biology* highly concede the contribution of renowned Scientist and Director, Dr. Sathyanarayana for his key scientific inputs in publishing this Special Issue of the Journal.