



## CONTACT ME

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Cocoa Research Centre,  
Vellanikkara

## EDUCATION

### Graduation in Agriculture

College of Horticulture, Kerala Agricultural University  
2006 - 2010

### Post graduation in Agrl. Entomology

college of Agriculture, ANGRAU  
2010 - 2012

### Ph. D. Agrl. Entomology

College of Horticulture, Kerala Agricultural University  
2012 - 2016

# Dr. Najitha Ummer

## Assistant Professor

## EXPERTISE

Entomologist with extensive experience in integrated pest management and stored pest management, serving Kerala Agricultural University (KAU) since 2019. Currently focused on pollination ecology of cocoa and pest management in cocoa. Dedicated to sustainable agricultural practices and eco-friendly pest control methods, contributing to both research and field-level applications.

## EXTENSION & RESEARCH ACTIVITIES

- Popularised liquid formulations of microbial agents, the KAU's new technology initiative.
- Led RKVY-funded infrastructure development for Trichocard production to ensure local availability for paddy farmers.
- Collaborated with NABARD on a project aimed at enhancing womens' livelihoods and scaling up eco-friendly pest management in rice using Trichocard technology.

## EXPERIENCE

- Assistant Plant Protection Officer (Entomology) in Plant Quarantine Division, DPPQS (2016–2019)
- Assistant Professor (Agrl. Entomology), KVK Malappuram, Kerala Agricultural University (2019–2024)
- Assistant Professor (Agrl. Entomology), Cocoa Research Centre, Kerala Agricultural University (2024- present)

## AREA OF SPECIALISATION

- Integrated Pest Management
- Stored Pest Management
- Pollination Ecology (Current Focus)

## AWARDS & RECOGNITION

- Maulana Azad National Fellowship for pursuing Ph.D. (2012)
- Sri. Putchakayala Basavaiah Chowdary & Smt. Nagarathamma Memmorial gold medal for securing highest OGPA in Dept. of Entomology, College of Agriculture, Bapatla

## RESEARCH PUBLICATIONS

1. **Najitha Ummer**, Susannamma Kurien, Maicykutty P. Mathew and Anjana Chandran. 2018. Root mealybugs and associated fauna in black pepper *Piper nigrum* L. Indian Journal of Entomology, 80(3): 922-925.
2. M. Mani M. S. Smitha and **Najitha Ummer**. 2016. Root mealybugs and their management in horticultural crops in India. Pest management in Horticultural Ecosystems, 22 (2): 1103–1113.
3. **Najitha Ummer** and Madhumathi T. Effect of hermetic storage of groundnut pods on the adult emergence and pod damage caused by the bruchid, *Caryedon serratus* (Olivier). 2016. International Journal of applied and pure science and agriculture 2(3): 155-159.
4. **Najitha Ummer**, Susannamma Kurien and Maicykutty P. Mathew. 2016. Biology and morphometrics of root mealybug *Formicococcus polysperes* Williams (Hemiptera: Pseudococcidae) infesting black pepper (*Piper nigrum* Linnaeus). Entomon. 41 (4): 297-302.
5. **Najitha Ummer**, Madhumathi T. and Krishnayya P. V. 2014. Efficacy of certain insecticides on groundnut pod bruchid *Caryedon serratus* (Olivier) as surface spray on jute bags. The Andhra Agricultural Journal 1(2); 357-360.
6. **Najitha Ummer**, Madhumathi T. and Krishnayya P. V. 2013. Effect of surface spraying of insecticides on gunny bags on the population development and losses caused by *Caryedon serratus* (Olivier). Journal of Plant Protection and Environment 10(1): 1-6.
7. **Najitha Ummer** and Susannamma Kurien. 2021. Management of root mealybug in black pepper (*Piper nigrum*), Journal of Krishi Vigyan. 10(1): 157-163
8. Akhilraj, B. C., Sruthy K. T., Lilia Baby, Jasna V. K., **Najitha Ummer**, Priya G. Nair and Ibraheem Kutty C. 2024. Petals on your plate: A guide to edible flowers for culinary delights. Plant Archives. 24(1) pp. 709-720.
9. V. K. Jasna, Premlatha Singh and **Najitha Ummer**. 2023. Overview of pesticide use in vegetable cultivation: Ground truth. Journal of Krishi Vigyan. 11 (supple.) 164-170

### Research Note

1. **Najitha Ummer**, Madhumathi T. and Krishnayya P. V. 2013. Efficacy of Insecticides against *Caryedon serratus* (Olivier) on jute cloth disc surface. Pesticide Research Journal. 25 (1): 43-45.
2. **Najitha Ummer**, Madhumathi T., Krishnayya P. V. and Ratna Babu D. 2013. Relative susceptibility of ground nut varieties to groundnut bruchid *Caryedon serratus* in storage. Indian Journal of Plant Protection 41(3): 267-269.
3. **Najitha Ummer** and Susannamma Kurien. 2021. *In vitro* evaluation on compatibility of *Lecanicillium lecanii* with selected pesticides. Pesticide Research Journal. 33(1);105-108
4. **Najitha Ummer**, Berin Pathrose and Indulekha V. P. 2021. A new record on the infestation of a millipede in agricultural crops of Kerala. Insect Environment. 24(4); 553-554

### Seminars/symposia

1. **Najitha Ummer**, Susannamma Kurien, Maicykutty P. Mathew. 2015. Root mealybugs and associated ant species in black pepper (*Piper nigrum* L.). In: 25th Swadeshi Science Congress, Book of Abstracts, pp. 50.
2. Gavas Ragesh, **Najitha Ummer**, Minimol J.S. Anooj S. 2024. Emerging pest scenario in Cocoa in Andhra Pradesh. Book of Abstracts, 31st Swadeshi Science Congress.
3. **Najitha Ummer** and Jasna V.K. 2024. Effective management of *Phytophthora* rot in Tirur betelvine using beneficial microbes. Book of Abstract of National conference on Expanding Horizons of Microbial Research in Agriculture.

## OTHER PUBLICATIONS

- Popular articles: 13
- Leaflets : 20

## STUDENT GUIDANCE

### Major Advisor

- M.sc. (Ag.) : 1 (ongoing)
- Ph.d. : Nil

### Advisory committee member

- M.Tech. (Ag. Eng.) : 1
- M.sc. Ag. : 2 (on going)

## MEMBERSHIP IN PROFESSIONAL ASSOCIATIONS

- Life member in Association for Advancement of Entomology
- Life member of Society of Pesticide Science India
- Life member of Society of Krishi Vigyan