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<u>Bio-Note</u> Dr. Sangeeta Gohel

Dr. Sangeeta Gohel is a highly accomplished microbiologist currently working as an Assistant Professor in the Department of Biosciences at Saurashtra University, Rajkot, Gujarat, India. She obtained both M.Sc. and Ph.D. Degree in Microbiology from the same Department. Notably, Dr. Gohel secured a prestigious UGC (University Grants Commission) sponsored Research Fellowship in Sciences for Meritorious Students (RFSMS) and Research Associateships funded by UGC-DSA and CSIR (Council of Scientific and Industrial Research), Government of India.

Dr. Gohel's research interests span a broad spectrum within microbiology, focusing on extremophiles for the past 18 years. Her expertise lies in areas including molecular phylogeny and diversity of haloalkaliphilic actinomycetes, microbial enzymes - purification, characterization, cloning, expression and structure-function analysis, antimicrobial activity profiling, plant growth promoting rhizospheric microbes from extreme environments, and metagenomics. Dr. Gohel was the Principal Investigator (PI) of a Start-up research project sponsored by UGC-BSR (University Grants Commission – Basic Science Research), New Delhi, India (Sanction No. F.30-101/2015(BSR) Year: 2015-2017). Dr. Gohel further demonstrated her research leadership by securing a major grant as the Principal Investigator from the prestigious Department of Science and Technology - Science and Engineering Research Board (DST-SERB) (Sanction order No. ECR/2016/000928, Year: 2017-20), Government of India. She has also played a key role as a Co-Investigator (Co-PI) in a Multi-Institutional Net Working Project (Year: 2014-2018) funded by the Ministry of Earth Sciences (MoES), Government of India. Additionally, she was the Principal Investigator (PI) in another significant research project sponsored by Saurashtra University's Internal Quality Assurance Cell (IQAC).

Dr. Gohel has published 40+ research articles/review articles/book chapters in various international and national journals. Her h-index and citations are 15 and 600, respectively with an i10-index of 18 and a cumulative impact factor exceeding 60. She has guided 40+ M.Sc. & M.Phil. dissertation students and currently mentoring 05 M.Sc. and 04 Ph.D. scholars. Moreover, she has presented her work at around 50 international and national conferences. Her dedication to research has been recognized through the numerous prestigious awards for academic excellence. She was awarded the Dollarrai Mankad Award for excellence in science by IQAC (Internal Quality Assurance Cell), Saurashtra University, Gujarat, India in 2016. Dr. Gohel's expertise is widely sought after. She has been invited as a resource person and judge at numerous national and international conferences and research courses. Additionally, she has organized national conferences at the Department of Biosciences, Saurashtra University. Additionally, she is a life member of the Association of Microbiologists of India (AMI) and the Biotechnology Research Society of India.

Dr. Gohel's academic and research expertise is widely recognized. She has served as an external member of the Doctoral Progress Review Committee at Atmiya University, an academic counsellor at IGNOU, and a member of the Board of Studies (Microbiology) at Dr. Subhash University. Additionally, her contributions extend internationally, including serving as a member of the project evaluation committee for the Chilean Antarctic Institute, INACH, and as a reviewer for numerous prestigious international journals such as Frontiers in Microbiology, International Journal of Biological Macromolecules (Elsevier), Microbial Ecology (Springer), Journal of Applied Microbiology (Oxford University Press), Journal of Basic Microbiology (Wiley-VCH), Chemistry and Biodiversity (Wiley), Science Progress (Sage) etc.

Dr. Gohel's dedication to research excellence and academic growth is exemplified by her impressive track record of publications, grant awards, and contributions to the field. Her commitment to mentoring the next generation of scientists, combined with her expertise in research, teaching, and service, makes her a valuable asset to the academic community.