

PRESENTATION TITLE: “1-1=2”

DESCRIPTION: When equations go wrong, let us not go with them. Raj shares how, “one minus one” can create a positive impact in one’s career / life.

ABOUT THE SPEAKER:



Dr. Rajkumar Rathinavelu is multiple gold medalist from TNAU, specialized in Genetics and Plant Breeding by training and Genomics, computational Biology and Artificial Intelligence by practicing in UNITS, Italy, UNC, USA and ITC, India.

Raj is a uniquely placed in ITC Ltd as a dual domain leader in Plant Breeding as well as Research Analytics, working on crop improvement of various plantation species, while he also heads various digital initiatives spanning research analytics to various AI based applications.

Among his many accomplishments, he was the first to develop coffee molecular linkage maps during his post doctorate in CCMB, Hyderabad. He also has developed "CoffeeDNA" a global DNA sequence repository from University of Trieste, Italy and built a database of Medicinal and Aromatic plants of Europe and Africa, while he was in UNIDO, Vienna, Austria. Raj has led, first Coffee whole genome sequencing & annotation of *Coffea robusta* in IRD, France; Tomato (Cornell University, New York); *Mimulus* (University of North Carolina, USA); Tobacco / Eucalyptus in ITC Ltd. He has developed integrated physical and genetic map of *Mimulus* through various computational tools, which are widely being used by evolutionary biologists globally.

Raj is instrumental in releasing several varieties in Eucalyptus, *Casuarina* *Corymbia* and several technologies, impacting millions of farmers' life across ~50,000 hectares in India for the last 15 years. In the recent time, Raj is known for this contribution in CO₂ sequestration, Satellite imaging, AI based automation of various applications in the area of Foods, Personal care, Agriculture and Forestry. He is passionate about integrating molecular genetics, predictive biology; informed breeding and Artificial intelligence, creating value through various digital platforms across ITC's business, while having a single life time KPI, "Put the smile on farmers' face".