

Professor Ravi Naidu

- CEO and Managing Director, Cooperative Research Centre for Contamination Assessment and Remediation of the Environment (CRC CARE)
- Founding Director, Centre for Environmental Risk Assessment and Remediation, University of South Australia



Professor Ravi Naidu is the Chief Executive Officer and Managing Director of CRC CARE – a centre that he initiated. His work focuses on the remediation of contaminated soil, water and air, and the potential impacts of contaminants upon environmental and human health at local, national and global levels. Prof. Naidu has helped revolutionise contamination science by leading the move to a risk-based approach to managing contaminated sites. By demonstrating that contaminants only pose a risk if they can be taken up by humans, animals, plants and other biota with adverse effects, he has helped pioneer a more rational, effective and affordable approach to contamination science and actual clean-up, which has been adopted in Australia. He has also been a leader in the shift to *in situ* remediation – cleaning up contamination where it lies, rather than the traditional ‘dig and dump’ approach. Together, these approaches potentially save industry millions, if not billions, of dollars annually and make clean-up far more feasible and attractive. Prof. Naidu is also the Founding Director of the University of South Australia’s Centre for Environmental Risk Assessment and Remediation. Through his teaching and mentorship, Prof. Naidu has also helped foster the next generation of Australian clean-up scientists.

Professor Naidu received his PhD in environmental science Massey University, and his MS was jointly awarded by the University of Aberdeen, UK, and the University of the South Pacific, Fiji. He is an elected Fellow of the Soil Science Societies of America (2000) and New Zealand (2004), and the America Society of Agronomy (2006). In 2012 he was chosen as a winner of the Soil Science Society of America’s International Soil Science Award, and in 2013 was elected a Fellow of the American Association for the Advancement of Science. He is Chair of the International Committee on Bioavailability and Risk Assessment and was Chair of the Standards Australia Technical Committee on Sampling and Analyses of Contaminated Soils (1999-2000), Chair of the International Union of Soil Sciences Commission for Soil Degradation Control, Remediation and Reclamation (2002-10), and President of the International Society on Trace Element Biogeochemistry (2005-07). He has authored or co-authored over 500 research articles and technical publications as well as six patents, and co-edited 10 books and over 55 book chapters in the field of soil and environmental sciences. He has also supervised over 30 PhD completions. In 2013, Professor Naidu received an honorary Doctorate of Science from Tamil Nadu Agricultural University for “outstanding contributions to agriculture”, and won the Richard Pratt – Banksia CEO Award at the Banksia Sustainability Awards, recognising his and his organisations’ contributions towards environmental sustainability.