

Former head of French Institute Pierre no more

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Puducherry: Former director of French Institute



of Pondicherry (IFP) Jean Pierre Muller passed away on

Tuesday in France. Muller, who was keen in the development of South and South-East Asia particularly India, served as the director of IFP in Puducherry from 2003 to 2008.

IFP is one of the main research and training institutes under the French ministry of foreign affairs and international development.

An agronomist by training, a soil scientist and a specialist of soils and mapping, Muller was instrumental in raising finance and external funds for research projects in the institute. Muller, who devoted his

entire career for scientific cooperation, created the laboratory of

physical soil analysis at the institute (1982-1985) and led the research unit on 'Geosciences on environment' (1993-1997).

He earlier served as the director general of the French Institute for Development (IRD) from 1998 to 2003. During his tenure he reorganized the IRD's headquarters. He worked in many tropical countries in Africa, Asia and South America in close collaboration with the

scientists and officials in these countries. Besides being a well-established scientist he was culturally inclined and in love with India and its diverse culture. He was an exceptionally talented photographer. IFP director Pierre Grard and staff members deeply condoled the sad demise of Muller who is survived by his wife Sita Muller.