

CSIR in Media



News Bulletin
1st to 10th December 2018



National conference 'RDPSB 2018' concludes at JU

CSIR-IHBT, IIIM

10th December, 2018



Eminent academicians, scientists and young delegates posing for a group photograph after conclusion of 'RDPSB 2018' at JU.

A national conference on Recent Development in Plant Stress Biology: Translating Laboratory Research to Human Welfare titled 'RDPSB-2018' concluded today at Brig Rajinder Singh Auditorium, University of Jammu. The conference was organized by Department of Botany, Central University of Jammu (CUJ). 85 delegates, including eminent academicians and scientists – Prof N Tuteja, Prof BC Tripathy and Prof Rajam participated in the conference and presented their work in the six technical sessions and the poster session. Young delegates got an opportunity to hear

stalwarts in this area of research. Dr Sanjay Kumar, Director CSIR- IHBT, Palampur and chief guest of the valedictory session delivered a talk on the adaptive strategies of high altitude plants. Prof AK Koul, former Head, Department of Botany, JU was the guest of honour. He exhorted all participants to incorporate the takeaways from the deliberations in their research work and urged the scientific fraternity to research more actively on reproductive stress biology of plants. Prof BS Bhau, Prof AK Wakhlu and Dr CM Seth were amongst the dignitaries present on the occasion. They jointly presented awards to winners of various categories. Young Scientist award was given to Dr Sonal Mishra (JU) and Dr Meenakshi Raina (CUJ) for their research work. The first position in oral presentation category went to Dr Deepak Kumar, Department of Botany, CUJ, second to Arti Sharma (CSIR-IIIM Jammu) and the third was shared by Nitika Kapor (CSIR-IIIM Jammu) and Mohd Urfan (JU).

In Poster category, Dr Anjana Rustagi (Gargi College, New Delhi) stood first. Dr Samantha Vaishnavi and Dr Vikas Srivastava (CUJ) jointly shared second position. The third position was shared by Dr Sonal Mishra (JU) and Dr Mohd Asgher (BGSBU, Rajouri). Special appreciation award was given for their poster to 5th semester students, Akriti, Harisimerpreet and Raghubar of Botany Department, CUJ.

Published in:
[Daily Excelsior](#)

CSIR-NBRI

9th December, 2018

एनबीआरआई में दो दिवसीय गुलदाऊदी और कोलियस प्रदर्शनी का समापन, तकनीकी एवं चिकित्सा शिक्षा मंत्री आशुतोष टंडन ने विजेताओं को किया पुरस्कृत

फूलों के कद्रदानों का सम्मान

जैसे, लखनऊ : रंग-बिरंगे फूलों के बीच पुष्प प्रेमियों को सम्मानित किया गया। राष्ट्रीय जनसंघान अनुसंधान संस्थान (एनबीआरआई) में दो दिवसीय गुलदाऊदी और कोलियस प्रदर्शनी का समापन हुआ। मंत्री आशुतोष टंडन ने प्रदर्शनी के विजेताओं को पुरस्कृत किया।

प्रदर्शनी में मदन मोहन मालवीय मार्ग निवासी रंजीता अग्रवाल और वृंदावन योजना निवासी मंजू शंकर चार-चार कप/शील्ड/ट्राफिका जीतकर प्रथम स्थान पर रही। निदेशक (सीएमए), लखनऊ विकास प्राधिकरण, अचल ग्रीन्स, एलिडको उद्यान-2, हेडक्वार्टर सेंट्रल कमांड कैट और ला मार्टिनीयर लॉट एरिया दो-दो कप/शील्ड/ट्राफिका जीतकर द्वितीय स्थान पर रहे। इसके

अलावा एचएल फैजाबाद रोड, प्राची, लखनऊ टाटा मोटर्स देवा रोड, स्वाति गुप्ता, राजेश अग्रवाल आदि ने एक-एक कप/शील्ड/ट्राफिका जीती। इस वर्ष दिए गए 391 सामान्य पुरस्कारों में ला मार्टिनीयर लॉट एरिया 20 पुरस्कार (12 प्रथम, तीन द्वितीय और पांच सातवना) जीतकर प्रथम स्थान पर रहे। रंजीता अग्रवाल 31 पुरस्कार (10 प्रथम, आठ द्वितीय और 13 सातवना) जीतकर द्वितीय और हिंदुस्तान एग्नेन्टिक्स लिमिटेड, फैजाबाद रोड 22 पुरस्कार (सात प्रथम, छह द्वितीय और नौ सातवना) जीतकर तृतीय स्थान पर रहे।



एनबीआरआई में लगी गुलदाऊदी व कोलियस प्रदर्शनी के समापन में पुरस्कृत हुए लोगों के साथ मंत्री आशुतोष टंडन, साथ में इसके बारिक व अन्य

अगले वर्ष कीकू-बिओरी गुलदाऊदी टाइप होगा 'वर्ष का पुष्प'

एनबीआरआई के निदेशक प्रो. इसके बारिक ने बताया कि अगले वर्ष 2019 में होने वाली गुलदाऊदी और कोलियस प्रदर्शनी में कीकू-बिओरी गुलदाऊदी टाइप 'वर्ष का पुष्प' होगा। संयोजक डॉ. इसके विधारी समेत अन्य लोग मौजूद रहे।



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Rastriya Sahara

Flower exhibition at CSIR-NBRI concludes

HT Correspondent

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LUCKNOW: The ornate view of different flowers elated the visitors, comprising every age group, on the final day of two-day annual chrysanthemum and coleus show organised by the CSIR-NBRI, Lucknow.

The closing ceremony was organised at the open-air theatre of the institute on Sunday, amidst the bloom of vast array of chrysanthemum and coleus.

UP technical and medical education minister Ashutosh Tandon was the chief guest of the show and distributed prizes to the winners.

A total of 389 prizes (110 first, 117 second and 162 commendations) were distributed. La Martiniere College, Lucknow occupied the first position by winning 20 prizes (12 first, 3 second and 5 commendations) followed by Ranjeeta Agrawal Madan Mohan Malviya Marg, Lucknow which secured 31 prizes (10 first, 8 second and 13 commendations).

While HAL, Faizabad Road, won 22 prizes (7 first, 6 second and 9 commendations) and stood third.

In valedictory function, Tandon said the flower show was a prestigious event and it infused the beauty of flowers and freshness in Lucknowites.



The winners with their trophies on the concluding day of the flower exhibition at NBRI on Sunday. (Below) A little girl takes a selfie among the blooms.

DEEPAK GUPTA/HT PHOTOS



A TOTAL OF 389 PRIZES (110 FIRST, 117 SECOND AND 162 COMMENDATIONS) WERE GIVEN. LA MARTINIERE COLLEGE BAGGED THE FIRST POSITION

He congratulated all the winners and also the NBRI for successfully organising this show.

While welcoming the guest, Prof SK Barik informed that NBRI was organising this flower show from past 6 decades.

He also thanked all the exhibitors for their active participation in the exhibition. He also informed that the chrysanthemum 'Flower for the Next Year' (2019) exhibition would be the Kiku-Biori chrysanthemum.

CSIR-NBRI

8th December, 2018

गुलदाउदी व कोलियस के फूलों ने बिखेरी अनुपम छटा



गुनगुनी धूप में लोगों ने उठाया गुलदाउदी व कोलियस पुष्प प्रदर्शनी का लुत्फ

प्रदर्शनी का राजा बनी मंजू शंकर की बड़े फूल वाली गुलदाउदी

लामार्टिनीयर लॉट एरिया की छोटे फूल वाली गुलदाउदी बनी रानी

लखनऊ (एसएनबी)। राष्ट्रीय वनस्पति अनुसंधान संस्थान स्थित सेन्ट्रल लॉन में शनिवार को दो दिवसीय गुलदाउदी एवं कोलियस प्रदर्शनी का प्रारम्भ किया गया, जिसमें गुलदाउदी व कोलियस के पुष्पों ने अनुपम छटा बिखेरी। गुनगुनी धूप में लोगों ने गुलदाउदी व कोलियस पुष्प प्रदर्शनी का लुप्त उठाया। इस दौरान मंजू शंकर, कुन्दावन योजना की बड़े फूल वाली गुलदाउदी के एक नमूनेदार गमले को प्रदर्शनी का राजा तथा ला मार्टिनीयर, लॉट एरिया की छोटे फूल वाली गुलदाउदी के एक नमूनेदार गमले को प्रदर्शनी की रानी घोषित किया गया। प्रदर्शनी में गुलदाउदी के फूलों से बना भारत का मानचित्र मुख्य आकर्षण का केन्द्र रहा।

प्रदर्शनी का उद्घाटन पर्यावरण, वन एवं जलवायु परिवर्तन मंत्रालय, भारत सरकार के वरिष्ठ आर्थिक

सलाहकार डा. आनंदी सुब्रमण्यम ने किया। संस्थान के मुख्य वैज्ञानिक डा. एस.के. तिवारी ने बताया कि इस वर्ष प्रदर्शनी में कुल 132 प्रदर्शकों ने 1215 प्रविष्टियों को प्रदर्शित किया। प्रदर्शनी के आयोजन का मुख्य उद्देश्य पुष्पकृषि उद्योग एवं इसके विभिन्न पहलुओं के प्रति जनसाधारण में जागरूकता उत्पन्न करना है। उन्होंने कहा कि यह एक सुनहरा अवसर है जहाँ लोगों ने फूलों के विविध रंगों, प्रकारों, आकारों व उनके संवर्धन पद्धतियों को देखा है। उन्होंने कहा कि यह

केटीसी हर्बल हेयर कलर स्टाल पर रही भीड़

प्रदर्शनी में केटीसी हर्बल हेयर कलर के स्टाल पर लोगों की भीड़ लगी रही। यहाँ यह बताते चले की इस हर्बल कलर की टेक्नोलॉजी राष्ट्रीय वनस्पति अनुसंधान संस्थान ने विकसित की है। इस सम्बंध में केटीसी हर्बल कलर के निदेशक राजीव कंसल ने बताया की ये हर्बल कलर हर्बस से तैयार किया गया है। इसमें किसी प्रकार का कोई कॅमिकल नहीं है। यह पूरी तरह से सुरक्षित है।



प्रदर्शनी आम जनता को एनबीआरआई के वैज्ञानिकों के साव धिचार-विमर्श का अवसर प्रदान करती है, जिससे वे गुलदाउदी व कोलियस से संबंधित कृषि प्रौद्योगिकी, व्यावसायिक कटफ्लावर्स की मिरमों तथा इसके संवर्धन पद्धतियों के विषय में जानकारी प्राप्त कर सकते हैं। उन्होंने बताया कि प्रदर्शनी में स्वाति गुप्ता, विराम खण्ड, गोमती नगर के स्प्राइडर गुलदाउदी के एक नमूनेदार गमले को प्रदर्शनी का राजकुमार, मंजू शंकर, कुन्दावन योजना की बड़ी

फूल वाली गुलदाउदी के एक नमूनेदार गमले को वर्ष का पुष्प 'सोनार बांगला' तथा हेड क्वार्टर, मध्य कमान के सर्वोत्तम कोलियस पौधे के नमूनेदार गमले को प्रदर्शनी का सर्वोत्तम कोलियस नवाजा गया है। प्रदर्शनी के राजा को रणजीत सिंह मेमोरियल ट्राफी, रानी को श्रीमती रणजीत सिंह मेमोरियल ट्राफी, प्रदर्शनी के राजकुमार को काजी सैयद मसूद हसन रनिंग चैलेंज ट्राफी, वर्ष का पुष्प 'सोनार बांगला' को राम किशोर शर्मा मेमोरियल ट्राफी तथा सर्वोत्तम कोलियस को श्रीमती कुमुद रस्तोगी मेमोरियल रनिंग चैलेंज ट्राफी प्रदान की जाएगी। प्रदर्शनी रविवार को प्रातः दस बजे से सायं छह बजे तक आम लोगों के अवलोकनार्थ खुली रहेगी तथा अपराह्न चार बजे विजयी प्रतिभागियों के पुरस्कार वितरित किए जाएंगे।

Published in:
Rastriya Sahara

CSIR-CSIO

7th December, 2018

SCIENCE CONGRESS CONCLUDES

CHANDIGARH: The three-day-long 26th State-level Children's Science Congress 2018 for Punjab concluded on Thursday at Indo-Swiss training centre, CSIR-CSIO, Chandigarh. It was organised by Punjab State Council for Science and Technology (PSCST) in association with CSIR-CSIO, Chandigarh. Around 500 students and teachers from all over the state attended the event. 131 projects were presented by children of 10-17 years on the focal theme 'Science, technology and innovation for a clean, green and healthy nation'.

Published in:

Hindustan Times

CSIR-IICT

6th December, 2018

Indo-Australian meet to benefit scholars underway

An agreement has been signed by IICT, AcSIR and RMIT for intake of more students into the collaborative programme

OUR BUREAU

Hyderabad: A joint RMIT (Australia) – AcSIR (India) workshop was inaugurated at Indian Institute of Chemical Technology (IICT), Tarnaka, on December 5 for the benefit of scientists and research scholars of IICT, CCMB and NGRI. The workshop would be held till December 7 with 20 lectures from eminent professors from RMIT and scientists from IICT, CCMB and NGRI, as well as 18 poster presentations from PhD scholars of IICT.

The collaboration with RMIT has been extended to the Academy of Scientific and Innovative Research (AcSIR), a deemed university, which registers research scholars from 39 CSIR laboratories under an MoU. Dr S Chandrasekhar, IICT Director, highlighted the achievements of the RMIT-IICT collaboration.

The RMIT University, based in Melbourne, has been in a successful collaboration with IICT for the past decade to promote human resources development through PhD programme



Dr S Chandrasekhar, IICT Director (centre), inaugurating a Australia-India workshop to benefit scientists and research scholars in IICT on Wednesday. Prof Calum Drummond, Deputy Vice-Chancellor, and Dr Suresh Bhargava, distinguished professor of RMIT, are present

in fields of chemical sciences, biology, engineering and other branches of science and technology. Several PhDs have been granted under this joint programme which covers two and half years of research at IICT and one year research at RMIT.

During the inaugural function, Dr

Chandrasekhar welcomed the gathering. He highlighted the collaboration efforts. Prof Calum Drummond, Deputy Vice-Chancellor, and Dr Suresh Bhargava, distinguished professor of RMIT, gave presentations on the scope for collaborative research between the two countries.

Acting directors from CCMB and NGRI also spoke. Convener of the programme Dr S Sridhar, Senior Principal Scientist, conveyed that an agreement was signed between IICT, AcSIR and RMIT for intake of more students into the collaborative programme.

Published in:
The Hans India

CSIR-NCL

6th December, 2018

Professor JW McBain memorial lecture at CSIR-NCL

PUNE: Council of scientific and industrial research - national chemical laboratory (CSIR-NCL), Pune organised the fourteenth professor JW McBain memorial lecture on November 30, 2018. The lecture was given by AK Shukla, honorary professor, Indian Institute of Science, Bengaluru on the topic, 'Batteries for a sustainable world'. In his lecture Prof AK Shukla said that energy is enabling and pervasive. "The more you generate, the more it is in demand," he said. He reminded that The modern energy services are crucial to human well-being and to the countries for economic development but yet globally over 1.3 billion people are without access to electricity and 2.6 billion people are without clean cooking facilities. More than 95% of these people are from either Sub-Saharan Africa or in Asia and 84% of these are from the rural areas.

Published in:

Hindustan Times

CSIR-CSIO

5th December, 2018

CSIO scientist gets national award

Develops cost-effective device for improving life of disabled persons

TRIBUNE NEWS SERVICE

CHANDIGARH, DECEMBER 4
The National Award for the Empowerment of Persons with Disabilities – 2018 has been conferred upon Amit Laddi, Senior Scientist at Central Scientific Instruments Organisation (CSIO) here, for developing a new cost-effective mobility assistive device for improving the life of disabled persons.

He received the award from Vice-President M Venkaiah Naidu at a function held in New Delhi to observe International day of Persons with Disabilities.

Working with the CSIO's Biomedical Instrumentation Division, Laddi has developed a cost-effective and user-friendly finger gesture-based mobility assistive device



Amit Laddi, a senior scientist at the CSIO, receives the award from Vice-President M Venkaiah Naidu at a function in New Delhi.

About the device

Working with the CSIO's Biomedical Instrumentation Division, Amit Laddi has developed a cost-effective and user-friendly finger gesture-based mobility assistive device that will cater to the needs of persons with locomotor disability and provide them a solution to live independently.

that will cater to the needs of persons with locomotor disability and provide them a solution to live independently.

It comprises of finger gesture control module as well as a motion drive unit that can be attached to any mobility cart easily. This technology is extremely useful for the disabled as well as subjects having weak hand muscles who cannot operate mechanical joysticks properly.

Published in:

Hindustan Times

Odisha Pollution Control Board asks mines to report air quality

CSIR-NEERI

5th December, 2018

The miners have been asked to comply with the direction of the board and submit an action plan for implementation of recommendations within 30 days.

BHUBANESWAR: The Odisha State Pollution Control Board (SPCB) has asked manganese and iron ore mines in Keonjhar, Mayurbhanj and Sundargarh to monitor ambient air quality in the mining area on a daily basis and furnish a detailed report. The mines would have to assess emission load generation from various mining activities every fiscal along with measures taken to bring down the pollution level. The Board issued the direction as per the recommendations made by Council of Scientific and Industrial Research-National Environmental Engineering Research Institute (CSIR-NEERI) which has suggested measures to the State Government to develop a sustainable development plan for mining activities and reduce pollution level in the mining areas of three districts.

The miners have been asked to comply with the direction of the board and submit an action plan for implementation of recommendations within 30 days. As per the recommendation of the research institutions each individual lease holder will have to make assessment and quantification of emission load generation in terms of air and noise pollution and waste water and solid waste from each of the mining activity, including transportation from April 1 to March 31 every fiscal, and submit a detail report to the board by next June. Meanwhile, CSIR-NEERI suggested mine owners to make efforts to recycle or reuse the treated waste water instead of discharging it.

Published in:

[New Indian Express](#)

IIIM celebrates 77th Foundation Day

CSIR-IIIM



JAMMU: Indian Institute of Integrative Medicine (CSIR-IIIM), Jammu celebrated its 77th Foundation Day here on Monday. On the occasion, Ram Bahadur Rai, veteran journalist and President of Indira Gandhi National Centre for the Arts (IGNCA), Delhi, was the Chief Guest and Dr C.K Katiyar, CEO, Health Care, Emami Ltd; Kolkatta was the Guest of Honour. The educationists, scientists, technocrats, farmers and members of civil society also joined the foundation day celebration. A simple and impressive function was organized with the lighting of the lamp in

4th December, 2018

the IIIM Auditorium to celebrate the IIIM Foundation Day. Dr Ram Vishwakarma, Director, IIIM Jammu in his welcome address introduced the Chief Guest and described him as statesman and investigative journalist. He further informed that Rai is former News Editor of Jansatta Newspaper. He has also authored books on former Prime Minister V.P Singh, named 'Manjil Se Jyada Safar' and 'Rahvari ke Sawal' on Ex PM Chandrashekhar. He was a close associate of the Gandhian socialist and freedom fighter Jayaprakash Narayan, and was also part of the 11-member Steering Committee that spear-headed the JP Movement. He was the Organising Secretary of Akhil Bharatiya Vidyarthi Parishad (ABVP) during the 1974 Bihar movement led by JP Narayan against the misrule and corruption in the government of Bihar. Dr. Ram also told that Ram Bahadur Rai is the first journalist to report about the 1991 Hawala Bribery scandal while working with Hindi daily Jansatta. Dr. C.K. Katiyar, the guest of

honour while speaking on the occasion said that India has very rich knowledge of Ayurvedic system of healing and health care but unfortunately we seldom bother to understand the insight of this novel and glorious system. Ram Bahadur Rai had delivered the Foundation Day lecture on 'Gandhi 150 Varsha: Mahatma Gandhi Ke Sapanon Ki Rajya Vyavastha'. During his lecture, he dealt with the Gandhian principles of life and relevance of Gandhi in modern time. For the overall development of nation like India, Rai said that the governance should start from villages rather than from State or Union Capital. Among many others, Rajneesh Anand, Chief Scientist, Dr. D.M Mondhe, Senior Principal Scientist, Dr. I.A Khan, Dr. Gurdarshan Singh, Dr. Zabeer Ahmed and Dr Asha Chaubey (Principal Scientists), Pankaj Bahadur, Controller of Administration, Satish Kumar, Finance & Accounts Officer and Praphul Kumar, Store and Purchase Officer were also present. Dr. Deepika Singh conducted the proceedings while Abdul Rahim, Head PME and IT Divisions presented vote of thanks.

Published in:
[State Times](#)

CFTRI Team Wins Thacker Memorial Tennis Championship

CSIR-CFTRI

3rd December, 2018



The tennis team of CSIR- CFTRI, Mysuru, has bagged Team Championship in the Thacker Memorial Tennis Championship at National Chemical Laboratory, Pune (Maharashtra), recently.

CFTRI team, comprising R.N. Ramesh (Captain), Dr. Arun Kumar, Girish Ghiwari and Dr. Fateh Khan, exhibited a wonderful game and in a thrilling finals, defeated National Chemical Laboratory, Pune, by 2-1. Also, R.N. Ramesh won the Individual Championship defeating Behara of IMMT Bhubaneswar in the finals by 6-1, 6-0.

Published in:
[Star of Mysore](#)

‘Vigyan Choupal’ ignites scientific spirit of villagers

CSIR-NML

2nd December, 2018



Jamshedpur: Jharkhand State Chapter of The National Academy of Sciences, India (NASI) in collaboration with FAITH in India and CSIR NML, organised first Vigyan Choupal at the village Chiruguda of East Singhbhum on Saturday. Under the tribal empowerment program of NASI, the first choupal was organized with a theme of Health – Hygiene & Nutrition and it was attended by more than 60 villagers including children, men and women. Inaugurating the choupal, Dr Arvind Sinha, Chairman of the Chapter, informed the villagers about the benefits of having a

good quality of life based on health, hygiene and nutrition. He also emphasized that NASI chapter will support and guide them in leading a healthy life by adopting basic scientific approaches to wards their life styles. Dr A K Arya, Medical Officer of CSIR NML addressed the natives and told them in detail about the various seasonal diseases as well as diseases acquired by wrong life style and mal nutrition. Dr Abhilash, scientists at CSIR NML and member of NASI, informed the villagers that the water used by them for drinking is contaminated with high concentration of fluoride and iron. He told them basic house hold processes to make water drinkable at home. Sister Fromsi Jacob, staff nurse CSIR NML also spoke about the common problems faced by women and young girls. She also told them how to handle it scientifically. Dr Arya and Madam Fromsy Jacob also conducted the health chekup of about 50 children, women and old persons and distributed them the basic medicines.

At the end of the program, Anamika Majumdar, FAITH in India told to NASI that infuture, NGO will organize more such choupals for the benefit of the natives of Jharkhand.

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World's biggest gene bank of medicinal plants to come up at CIMAP, Lucknow

CSIR-CIMAP

1st December, 2018

Over 300 other spices and medicinal plants will have their genetic information profiled and saved at CSIR-CIMAP (Central Institute of Medicinal and Aromatic Plants), Lucknow.



Representatives of member countries at training camp at CIMAP. (HT Photo)

Indian mint, Iranian saffron, Sri Lankan black pepper and mace from Indonesia, along with over 300 other spices and medicinal plants will have their genetic information profiled and saved at CSIR-CIMAP (Central Institute of Medicinal and Aromatic Plants), Lucknow. Once established, it will be the biggest gene bank of medicinal and aromatic plants in the world.

These plants are native to the 23 countries bordering the Indian Ocean. The countries are represented by their consortium Indian Ocean Rim Association (IORA). The member countries have begun efforts to build the gene bank, with their first across the table training programme currently underway at the premier research institute located near Kukrail in the state capital. Genetic bank refers to a collection of genetic information that is unique for all living species. The programme titled, 'Diversity, documentation, gene banking and database for medicinal plants' is being attended by representatives of 11 IORA member countries. "One of the primary objectives of the programme is to establish a detailed gene data bank of the medicinal plants that can be shared among the members countries," said Prof Anil K Tripathi, Director, CSIR CIMAP.

The member countries have agreed to share their knowledge of medicinal and aromatic plants found in their respective countries. They have also agreed to submit genetic data of such plants, turning the endeavour into a one of its kind conservation effort by member countries. “The genetic data bank will not only help in conservation but also act as a source of information for future generations,” said Fereshteh Moradi, chief coordinator of the programme. Dr Ajit K Shasany, head-convener of the programme said, “The gene data bank that can only be accessed by the member countries will also help to identify fake products sold in the black market.”

The programme is being organised by the science and technology transfer wing of IORA. The wing has chosen the CIMAP as one of its regional centres for science and technology transfer. The programme is being funded by the Ministry of External Affairs (MEA). The members include countries of the gulf-Iran, Oman, UAE, Yemen- African sub continent, South Africa, Tanzania, Madagascar, Mozambique, Kenya- other south east Asian countries and Australia.

The programme also aims to make trade of these medicinal plants easier among the member countries. “Sharing knowledge and technology involved in harvest of these plants is also a part of the programme,” Shasany said. Elucidating further, he cited the example of the trade of saffron. “Iran is a leading exporter of saffron but the Iranian saffron in the Indian market comes via Europe where it is processed. This is set to change under this initiative,” he said.

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