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NRDC, Ridhi Sidhi Medicare ink pact for commercialisation of ayurvedic products

CSIR-NEIST

2nd May 2017

NRDC and Ridhi Sidhi Medicare, Delhi have entered into a licence agreement for the commercialisation of a slew of ayurvedic products for the management of diabetes and arthritis.

Ayush 82, an ayurvedic formulation for the management of diabetes, Ayush SG for rheumatoid arthritis and herbal product for anti-arthritis, are the products that would be marketed.

Both Ayush 82 and Ayush SG have been developed by the Central Council for Research in Ayurvedic Sciences (CCRAS), New Delhi, an autonomous organisation under the Ministry of Ayush. The herbal formulation for anti-arthritis has been developed at CSIR-NEIST, Jorhat, Assam.

These three pacts were inked by H Purushotham, Chairman & Managing Director, on behalf of National Research Development Corporation, and Shikha Garg, Proprietress, Ridhi Sidhi Medicare, at CSIR, New Delhi in the presence of the Minister of Science and Technology & Earth Sciences, Harsh Vardhan, and Girish Sahni, Director General, CSIR & Secretary, DSIR.

The NRDC chief said the corporation has so far licensed 20 ayurvedic/herbal technologies developed by CCRAS and CSIR to more than 40 companies in the country. It was the first time that a woman entrepreneur had come forward to boldly take three technologies and commercialise them from the corporation, he added.

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[Hindu Business Line](#)

NRDC, CSIR- NGRI ink MoA

CSIR-NGRI

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The NRDC and CSIR have signed a Memorandum of Agreement (MoA) for marketing the inventions, patents, formulations, know-how processes – developed by these institutes, Bureaucracy Today has learnt.

The National Research Development Corporation is an enterprise under the Department of Scientific & Industrial Research, Ministry of Science and Technology. It was formed with an objective to develop, promote and for commercialisation of technologies emanating from R&D organization, PSUs and academia.

The CSIR- National Geophysical Research Institute (NGRI) is engaged in carrying out research in multidisciplinary areas of Earth Sciences, which plays a pivotal role in the exploration of Hydrocarbons, Mineral and Groundwater resources.

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[New Indian Express](#)

Study: Thane, Malad, Manori creeks choke as untreated sewage helps mangroves flourish

CSIR-NEERI

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Discharge of untreated sewage and other urban waste into the sea has resulted in unchecked growth of mangroves which is choking creeks, found a two-year research on Thane, Malad and Manori creeks by National Environment Engineering Research Institute (NEERI).

"We have observed that mudflats and mangroves have increased significantly in these areas over the last two decades," said Rakesh Kumar, director NEERI. Thane creek is the worst affected showing new mangrove growth along a 45-km stretch, said project leader Ritesh Vijay. Manori creek saw new mangrove growth along a 12-km stretch and Malad creek along an 8-km stretch. "The growth is maximum in the water channels

affecting tidal movement...if something is not done about the discharge of untreated sewage...the creeks will become swamps," said Vijay.

D Stalin, director of NGO Vanashakti, pointed out that untreated sewage alone is not at fault. "There is a rapid reduction in the land space available for dispersal of tide water on the landward side of the creeks. We have either constructed on or blocked the flow of water in existing open areas. Left with no place to go, the tide waters stagnate and deposit more silt in the channel. This siltation makes conditions ideal for mangrove growth. So, the main creeks and creeklets are witnessing more mangrove growth," he explained.

For the study, NEERI evaluated the changes considering satellite images of the years 1972, 1994 and 2016 using remote sensing analysis. It was observed that while there was destruction of mangroves due to construction and developmental activities, new growth of mangroves was observed in the creeks' inner periphery. The report stated that favourable ambient conditions led to the formation of mudflats and ultimately increased the growth of mangroves.

Vijay said the satellite images indicated that 9% of the creek areas were covered by mangroves in 1972, which decreased to 7.5% in 1994 on account of construction activity. In 2016, 10% of the total creek area were covered by mangroves. "It has also been observed that the extent of mangroves increased more where the width of the creek is large (towards the sea) and less where width of the creek is small (towards the upper stretch). There is a reduction in the width of creek due to formation of mudflats and subsequent growth of mangrove. More reduction has been observed in Thane creek compared to Malad and Manori creeks," said the report.

"The Mumbai, Thane and Navi Mumbai civic bodies will have to work together to stop the discharge of untreated sewage and other effluents into the sea. The unchecked growth of mangroves is blocking the navigational channels, which affects the livelihood of the fisherfolk," Vijay said, adding that the sewage treatment plants at Bhandup, Ghatkopar, Versova, Malad are not up to the mark. BMC's Mumbai Sewage Disposal Project Phase-II to upgrade the system, including treatment before discharge into the sea, is yet to take off.

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[TOI](#)

Institute to tap gut microbes for drugs

CSIR-IMTECH

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Building on a growing, global scientific interest in the human microbiome — the colony of bacteria and microscopic forms that live in the gut, skin and other organs of the body — the CSIR-Institute of Microbial Technology, Chandigarh (IMTech), is working on a programme to tap its vast collection of microbial samples and develop therapeutic products or drugs.

The human body is estimated to have about 35 trillion cells, and about two to three times as many microbial organisms. Most of them live in the gastrointestinal tract, which is home to around 3,000-4,000 species of bacteria, not including viruses and other life forms. Some are harmful and many, not.

The global probiotics (or beneficial bacteria) industry has already started

using certain species of bacteria as healing or curative agents. Mother Dairy, Amul, Danone Yakult, and Nestle India are among the leading producers of probiotic functional foods and beverages in India. Their foods use lactobacilli and bifidobacteria to make yoghurt, curd, and several dietary supplements.

On the other hand, burgeoning evidence suggests that atherosclerosis, obesity, intestinal problems, and many psychological disorders lead to distinct changes in the composition of bacteria in the gut. Restoring balance or teasing out how the by-products of these organisms lead to chemical changes that cause disease, is at the heart of research.

In 2016, IMTech researchers reported in the *Frontiers of Immunology* how drugs used to treat tuberculosis changed the gut microbial profile in mice. This led them to posit that “microbial therapy could help people suffering from TB.”

IMTech has a library of about 40,000 microbial cell cultures (not all of them relevant to humans) of varied provenance. According to Anil Koul, Director, IMTech, their research programme aims to find out what combinations of bacterial species can be used for potential therapeutics.

“We have scanned genomes before, and have a lot of expertise. But now we are looking at industry and research collaborations to see how these bacteria can be combined in effective ways,” he said in an interview

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