## Campco, CFTRI sign MoU on value addition to chocolates

#### **CSIR-CFTRI**



Multi-state cooperative Campco Ltd has entered into technical collaboration and signed a memorandum of understanding with Mysuru based Central Food Technological Research Institute (CFTRI) to take forward the initiative of value addition. Campco's endeavor to develop new products is on track and its chocolate factory at Darbe in Puttur is fully equipped for the same. Cocoa is one of the main inter crop that recant farmers grow in their gardens.

As a step towards value addition, CFTRI will be supplying seeds of quinoa (Chenopodium quinoa) belonging to family Chenopodiaceae. The grains are very rich in essential proteins higher than the cereals. The grain crop is grown primarily for its edible seeds and also Chia (Salvia hispanica L) which is a plant of Mexican and South American origin belonging to Lamiaceae family well known for its rich Omega 3 fatty acids and high nutraceutical value.



Both these grains are gaining popularity as super food, all around the world. In India, CFTRI is developing this super food and technical know-how of the same is transferred to farmers who in turn will supply to CAMPCO through cooperative societies. These two main ingredients will be incorporated in Campco products for value addition of chocolates. Campco and CFTRI signed the MoU on October 3 at CFTRI, Mysuru, S R Satischandra, president, Campco said.

## CSIR DG releases book on psychology at PU

#### **CSIR**

Director General of the Council of Scientific & Industrial Research (CSIR) Dr Girish Sahni and Panjab University (PU) vice-chancellor Prof Arun Kumar Grover on Tuesday released a book titled "Idea of Excellence: Multiple Perspectives" at PU Campus. The book on psychology has been published by the PU Publication Bureau has been edited by the PU Professor Emeritus Prof Jitendra Mohan. Prof Meena Sehgal is the associate editor of the book. The book has 20 papers from 21 internationally renowned experts on psychology. The list of the contributors include Dr Alena Slzackova (Czech Republic), Dr Annette Furst (Germany), Dr Nicole Russychaert (Belgium), Dr Brigitte Melzig (Austria), Dr Bernd Schmid (Germany), Dr Guy Joseph Ale (USA), Dr Meena Laiphrakpam (Thailand) and Professor Asoke K Saha (Bangladesh).

The book editor Prof Jitendra Mohan, Publication Bureau Manager Prof Rana Nayar, PU director Research Promotion Cell Prof O P Katare and many other teachers, students were also present on the occasion.

Meanwhile, Legal Aid Clinic, University Institute of Legal Studies (UILS), Panjab University (PU), on Tuesday organized a street play at Student Centre, PU. The play was organized in association with State Legal Services Authority and District Legal Services Authority, UT, Chandigarh.

The chief guest of the event was Mahavir Singh, Member Secretary, State Legal Services Authority, UT, Chandigarh; Amrinder Sharma Chief Judicial Magistrare-cum-Secretary District Legal Services Authority, UT, Chandigarh. The play was aimed at creating awareness about issues revolving around drugs, child labour and trafficking, domestic violence. The faculty members, volunteers from the department and more than 200 students from the University were also part of it.



## Awareness drive

### **CSIR**

The National e-Governance Division (NeGD) in association with the National Service Scheme (NSS) and the Department of Youth Affairs conducts awareness workshops on Digital India in more than 100 universities all over the country. In this direction, the NSS unit of the PEC University of Technology, Chandigarh, organised a Digital India workshop on Tuesday. The workshop commenced with the lighting of a lamp. The event was graced by Director Manoj K Arora. He emphasised the importance of digital literacy and urged teachers to switch to the digital platform for teaching. He also batted for the concept of flip classrooms.

### Vigyan parishad launched

The Chandigarh Vigyan Parishad (CVP) was launched on Tuesday on the premises of Panjab University, Chandigarh. A large number of scientists have joined hands to form the CVP as a registered society, which would work for the popularisation and dissemination of science education in the tricity. The Director General of the Council of Scientific and Industrial Research (CSIR); and the Secretary, Department of Scientific and Industrial Research (DSIR), Ministry of Science and Technology, Dr Girish Sahni, delivered the inaugural lecture on science in India.

## Workshop

Aruna Papp, a sociologist, consultant, educator and training facilitator based in Canada, conducted a workshop at the PGGC-11 on Tuesday. She has the distinction of representing Canada at the 57th session of the United Nations on March 9, 2013. Over 150 students participated in the workshop.



The focus of her lecture was honour killing, NRI marriages and gender roles in South Asia with a special reference to the Punjabi culture. A distinguished author and recipient of many awards, she narrated her own story which was at once poignant and inspirational and highlighted the positive role a community can play in restructuring its patriarchal mindset to bring about gender parity. During the course of the workshop, the participants discussed cultural, social and policy issues so that the domestic abuse and violence can be curbed. College principal JK Sehgal exhorted young participants to bring about gender parity in their community.

### **Cluster Innovation Centre in Biotech**

Dr Sahni, Director General of the Council of Scientific and Industrial Research (CSIR), today inaugurated the Cluster Innovation Centre in Biotechnology (CIC-B) at Department of Microbial Biotechnology in Sector 25, Panjab University. PU Vice-Chancellor Arun K Grover, a large number of teachers, research scholars and students participated in the inaugural function. In his address, PU alumnus Dr Girish Sahni stressed the need for making full use of such world-class facilities. He described the facilities as a means of achieving inclusive growth and equality. He elaborated on the kind of support the government was providing or intended to provide for such efforts. VC Arun Kumar Grover emphasised that the available support system his innovative and encouraged the students and research scholars to make full use of the support system available for such progressive endeavours

### **CSIR-NISCAIR**

# CSIR's platinum jubilee

#### STATESMAN NEWS SERVICE

New Delhi, 28 September

The CSIR-National Institute of Science Communication and Information Resources (CSIR-NISCAIR). New Delhi, on Tuesday celebrated CSIR platinum jubilee Foundation Day at APShinde Hall, NASC Complex, Pusa. CSIR-NISCAIR is one of the 38 institutes of CSIR that is involved in science communication and science information dissemination.

Speaking on the occasion, Chief Guest Prof KG Suresh, Director General, Indian Institute of Mass Communication, New Delhi, highlighted the importance of science communication in inculcatingthe much needed scientific temper in society and termed it unfortunate that Indian media covers only 3 percent news on science and that, too, mostly related to health sector.

He also exhorted that it is about time that institutions such as IIMC and CSIR-NISCAIR collaborated with each other so as to bring about synergy between the activities of the two national institutes and leverage their respective strengths jointly.

Highlighting the importance of science communication and the need for science information to reach the common man, Dr G Anupama, joint secretary, CSIR, who was the Guest of Honour at the function, said that CSIR-NISC AIR is a unique institute in the CSIR and their scientists are better positioned to innovate and come up with new ideas that can benefit the society at large.

Dr. Manoj Kumar Patairiya, Director, CSIR-NISCAIR in his presidential address stated that the Platinum Jubilee year was a perfect platform for reorienting the activities of CSIR-NISCAIR and complimented all the staffs on it.

## Precise block-wise weather bulletins by 2019 from IMD

#### **CSIR-NGRI**

Weather forecasting is likely to become more focused from 2019 with the India Meteorological Department (IMD) setting up 660 district centres in order to provide 6000 block-wise bulletins across the country for the benefit of farmers.

Similarly, the IMD is also working on complex mathematical models to come up with weather bulletins for urbai, flooding which has become a common phenomenon. A prototype model is under preparation in Mumbai, said Union Ministry of Earth Sciences Secretary Madhavan Nair Rajeevan at the National Geophysical Research Institute (NGRI).

Delivering a lecture as part of the diamond jubilee celebrations of the Council of Scientific & Industrial Research (CSIR), he said that blockwise bulletin will be an exclusive forecasting system with the help of the latest 10 petaflop supercomputer set up at a cost of Rs. 400 crore. "These will be high resolution weather prediction models," he said.

The Ministry which had prepared a Vision 2050 report was also in the process of setting up observation posts all across the east and west coasts to study marine pollution. Besides, it will also increase the number of seismology observation centres to 116 from the current 84 with focus on Himalayas, Uttarakhand and Andamans, to improve the earthquake monitoring so that any emergency distress message can be relayed in less than five minutes of the quake.

Another important project was the Rs.100-crore desalination plant coming up at Lakshadweep utilising the oceanic thermal energy, he explained. Mr. Madhavan said that global warming was a reality and it was observed that there has been a 0.7 degree rise in temperatures in the country over the last 100 years in tune with the trend worldwide.

High intensity rainfall in bursts and heat waves have become common in recent years which could be attributed to the global warming. To study the climate change more comprehensively and deeply with all parameters making use of the sophisticated equipment, climate change observatories are to be set up in "pristine" sites where human activity is minimal. "Such posts could be set up in the Himalayas, Arctic & Antarctic regions," he said.

Later, the MoES Secretary felicitated retired NGRI staff and those who had completed 25 years of service in the institution. Parents of meritorious children were also given cash awards. NGRI Director Virendra M. Tiwari, senior scientist Shakeel Ahmed and former director Harsh Gupta participated.

## MOES focus on developing a earth system model: Nair

#### **CSIR-NGRI**

Hyderabad, Sep 29 (UNI) Union Ministry of Earth Sciences (MoES) is focused on developing a reliable, high resolution Earth System Model to address future projections over the Indian region using climate model simulation for climate variability in south-east monsoonal regions, its Secretary Dr.

Madhavan Nair Rajeevan said today.

Delivering the Foundation Day lecture on "Science of Climate Change: New Initiatives" at the CSIR-National Geophysical Research Institute (NGRI) here, he said the model will take into account the different components of interactions among the hydrosphere, biosphere and lithosphere.

Dr.

Rajeevan outlined the major activities of the MoES, with the mandate to provide knowledge and technology enterprise in the Earth System Science for public safety and socio-economic benefits in the form of Fast Track Projects like Agro-meteorological Services, Customized Forecasts for Tourism and Pilgrimage, Energy from Oceans, Monitoring and Prediction of Marine Coastal Pollution, in tune with MoES Vision 2030.

He appreciated the high impact research work being carried out at CSIR-NGRI and emphasized the importance of continued collaboration with NGRI to accomplish Mission Mode programs in different disciplines of Earth Sciences.

The MoES Secretary highlighted the alarming increase in the concentration of Carbon dioxide and other greenhouse gases globally, since 1950s due to human activity and industrial revolution, which has resulted in increase in surface air temperatures leading to global warming (more than

7 C over the last decades), impacting the food security and public health all over the world.
In the Indian context, he presented increasing trends of surface air temperatures, similar to the global warming trend, as indicated by 100 years of climatological data records.

The western and central parts of Northern India are experiencing consistent increase in heat waves.

The average monsoon rainfall over the country has remained stable over the last century. However, appreciable spatio-temporal variations in regional trends are observed on the local scale.

The number of rainstorm days has seen a significant increase since the 1990s, which led to floods recently observed in Kashmir, Uttarakhand, Chennai and other places.

There is also a long term increasing trend in the area being affected by droughts.

According to IPCC models, extreme temperatures in future climate is expected to increase with corresponding decrease in number of rainy days and an increase in intensity of rainfall during the monsoon season.

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